

# I & II Thessalonians, Titus, and Philemon

## Winter 2017 – Adult Auditorium Class

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wednesday	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan. 1 Introduction to Thessalonians	2	3	4 I Thessalonians 1	5	6	7
8 I Thessalonians 2:1-12	9	10	11 I Thessalonians 2:13-20	12	13	14
15 I Thessalonians 3:1-6	16	17	18 I Thessalonians 3:7-13	19	20	21
22 I Thessalonians 4:1-12	23	24	25 I Thessalonians 4:13-18	26	27	28
29 I Thessalonians 5:1-11	30	31	Feb. 1 I Thessalonians 5:12-28	2	3	4
5 II Thessalonians 1	6	7	8 II Thessalonians 2:1-8	9	10	11
12 II Thessalonians 2:9-17	13	14	15 II Thessalonians 3:1-9	16	17	18
19 II Thessalonians 3:10-18	20	21	22 Review / catch-up	23	24	25
26 Introduction to Titus; Titus 1:1-4	27	28	Mar. 1 Titus 1:5-9	2	3	4
5 Titus 1:10-16	6	7	8 Titus 2:1-8	9	10	11
12 Titus 2:9-15	13	14	15 Titus 3:1-7	16	17	18
19 Titus 3:8-15	20	21	22 Philemon 1-7	23	24	25
26 Philemon 8-16	27	28	30 Philemon 17-25	31	Apr. 1	2



1. What three things did Paul remember without ceasing about the Thessalonians?
2. In what did Paul say "our gospel" came unto them?
3. Of whom did the Thessalonians become followers?
4. To whom did the Thessalonians become examples?
5. From what is Jesus said to deliver us?
6. Whom did Paul include in the salutation of this letter?
7. How had the Thessalonians received the word?
8. To what places had the word of the Lord sounded out from Thessalonica? What does this phrase mean?
9. From what had the Thessalonians turned to serve God?
10. In 1:4 Paul says the Thessalonians were chosen (elected) by God. Many in the protestant religions believe God has elected certain individuals to salvation and others to condemnation. Is that what Paul is describing? Find some verses that say more about what election is or isn't.
11. How can the word "sound forth" from Mountain View today?

1. At what place was Paul shamefully treated?
2. What was Paul "willing to have imparted" to them in addition to the gospel?
3. Why did Paul say they labored night and day?
4. Paul said his exhortation was not of what?
5. How did Paul and companions behave themselves while among the Thessalonians?
6. What comparison did Paul make in describing how gentle they were?
7. What three things had they done "as a father does his children"?
8. Paul had been bold to speak the gospel at Thessalonica "with" (or "amid") what?
9. Unto what had God called the Thessalonians?
10. Who were Paul's witnesses concerning their behavior at Thessalonica?
11. Paul labored "night and day" at Thessalonica (2:9). Did he teach that preachers must never be fully supported by the church?

1. What four things does Paul attribute to the Jews?
2. From whom had the Thessalonians suffered affliction?
3. Of whom did Paul say the wrath is come upon to the uttermost?
4. Who had hindered Paul from coming to the Thessalonians?
5. How had the Thessalonians received the word preached by Paul?
6. Who had forbidden Paul to speak to the Gentiles?
7. How did Paul describe the Thessalonians?
8. Of whom did Paul say the Thessalonians had become followers?
9. What does the word do in those that believe?
10. How did Paul describe the manner in which he had been taken from Thessalonica?
11. Paul claimed that the word he spoke was not of men, but of God (2:13). What other scriptures could you give to support the claim that the Bible is inspired of God and not a collection of myths or opinions of men?

1. Where did Paul think it good to be left alone?
2. Go back and look at Acts 17:15. When Paul initially arrived in Athens, did he want to be alone?
3. When Timothy arrived back from Thessalonica, where was Paul? (Acts 18:5)

In Luke's narrative story he did not include every coming and going of Paul or his associates. But from the incidental details provided here in chapter 3, a series of events can be proposed. It's not the only possible itinerary but seems to fit well with the information given.

- Paul was escorted to Athens while Timothy & Silas remain in Berea (Acts 17:14-15)
- Paul urged Timothy & Silas to come to him ASAP (Acts 17:15), which they did
- Paul wanted to return to Thessalonica but couldn't (I Thess. 2:17-18)
- So instead Paul stayed in Athens alone (3:1), sending Timothy to Thessalonica (3:2) with instructions to meet him in Corinth when he was finished doing what Paul wanted
- Silas was not with Timothy in Thessalonica; Paul sent him elsewhere with similar instructions
- Timothy and Silas eventually rejoined Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:5; I Thess. 3:6)
- Upon receiving Timothy's good report, Paul wrote I Thessalonians, which Timothy delivered

4. What had Paul told them before when he was with them?
5. Name at least three reasons why Paul sent Timothy to them.
6. What did Paul fear may have happened to cause his labor to be in vain?
7. How did Paul describe Timothy?
8. Paul wrote of the possibility that his labor might have been in vain (3:5). Show why this concerned him by citing Bible examples of people who obeyed the Lord, but later departed from the faith.

1. What comforted Paul in all his affliction and distress?
2. In what did Paul pray the Lord would make them increase and abound?
3. How often was Paul praying that he might see their face?
4. What would enable Paul to say "for now we live"?
5. What did Paul hope to "perfect" when he came to them?
6. Paul prayed that they would increase and abound in love (3:12). What was the end (goal) of their increase?

1. What did Paul say the Thessalonians had received of "us"?
2. In what did Paul say each should possess his vessel?
3. By contrast, how do the gentiles possess their vessels?
4. Unto whom were the Thessalonians practicing brotherly love?
5. By whom did Paul say they had given commandments to the Thessalonians?
6. From what did Paul tell them to abstain?
7. Of whom is the Lord the avenger?
8. Who is really despised when one despises another man?
9. What did Paul say the Thessalonians were taught of God?
10. What three things did Paul say they should study?
11. What is the proper attitude and conduct of a Christian toward those who are not Christians?
12. We are instructed in 4:12 to be honest. Can you find other passages which enlarge on this subject?



1. Concerning whom would Paul not have the Thessalonians ignorant?
2. What would they do "with these words"? How might they do that?
3. Who did Paul say would rise first?
4. Christians do not sorrow even as whom?
5. In what manner shall the Lord descend from heaven?
6. Who will God bring with Him?
7. What will happen after the dead in Christ have arisen?
8. Where shall we meet the Lord?
9. Our faith in the resurrection is based on what?
10. Find as many New Testament texts as you can regarding the second coming of Christ. From these outline briefly the order of events as you understand what will occur.

1. What did Paul tell "us who are of the day" to put on?
2. Of what did Paul "have no need" to write to the Thessalonians?
3. The day of the Lord comes as what?
4. Unto what has God appointed us?
5. What will men be saying when the Lord comes?
6. The Thessalonians are described as "children" of what?
7. The suddenness of Christ's coming is compared to what?
8. Being children of the day, what should we do?
9. What did Paul describe men as doing in the night?
10. What did Paul encourage them to continue doing?
11. In 5:6 Paul said, "Let us not sleep," but in 5:10 he said Christ died for us whether we wake or sleep. Is this a contradiction? Explain.

1. What are Christians to do regarding those who are over them in the Lord?
2. What are the brethren exhorted to do for the unruly?
3. What are they exhorted to do for the feebleminded (fainthearted)?
4. What are they exhorted to do for the weak?
5. What are they exhorted to do for all men?
6. In what should we give thanks?
7. What did Paul pray would be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord?
8. To whom was this epistle to be read?
9. From what were they exhorted to abstain?
10. What were they to "prove"? What were they to "hold fast"?
11. In 5:23 Paul speaks of the "spirit and soul and body" of man. Find other passages which show a distinction between these and explain what you think that distinction is.

1. What made it right for Paul to give thanks always for the Thessalonians?
2. Upon whom will Christ take vengeance?
3. What will God recompense to those who trouble Christians?
4. What will He recompense to those who are troubled?
5. What did Paul pray would be glorified in them?
6. For what did Paul glory about the Thessalonians in the churches of God?
7. With what will the Lord punish the wicked?
8. With whom and in what will Christ come?
9. In whom will Christ be glorified and admired in that day?
10. What did Paul pray God would do in their behalf?
11. Will the wicked cease to exist or be annihilated by the Lord's punishment? Find as many passages as you can which teach regarding the eternal and everlasting nature of the punishment upon the wicked.

1. What two things did Paul want to address at this point in the letter?
2. What fact would have caused them to be "shaken in mind" or troubled if it were true?
3. What might have made the Thessalonians think this?
4. What two things must precede the coming of the Lord?
5. Above what does the man of sin exalt himself?
6. In what does the man of sin sit?
7. When had Paul told them these things?
8. What did Paul say was already at work?
9. The son of perdition was being withheld at the time that he might be revealed when?
10. How would the Lord consume the wicked one?
11. From the earthly vantage point, who would appear to be in control? What phrases does Paul use to show God is in control the whole time?

1. Why will some be deceived and perish?
2. Through what had God chosen the Thessalonians to salvation?
3. The coming of the wicked one was after the working of whom?
4. With what activity of Satan does he use to deceive?
5. How were the Thessalonians called?
6. To the obtaining of what reward does God call men?
7. The Thessalonians were to stand fast and hold to what?
8. What will God send to those who do not believe the truth?
9. In what do these who will be condemned have pleasure?
10. Through what has God given us everlasting consolation and good hope?
11. Explain how and why God could send a strong delusion to some (2 Thess. 2:11-12) and at the same time is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9).

1. What did Paul ask that they pray for regarding the word of the Lord?
2. For what did he seek their prayers in his behalf?
3. How did Paul keep himself from being "chargeable" to them?
4. If he had the right to be supported, why did he choose to work?
5. What will the Lord, who is faithful, do for His people?
6. What did Paul have confidence they would do?
7. Into what did he say the Lord would direct them?
8. By what authority were they exhorted to withdraw from certain brethren?
9. From whom were they to withdraw themselves?
10. If they followed Paul's example, how would they behave themselves?
11. Find as many passages as you can which teach the faithful Christian's responsibility to an unfaithful brother. What should be done if he refuses to repent?

1. What command did Paul give concerning those who would not work?
2. How were some at Thessalonica walking?
3. Were they being completely idle?
4. What was to be done with one who would not obey the word of this epistle?
5. What effect should this action have on one who did not obey?
6. How were they to regard the man who did not obey Paul's instruction?
7. On what basis (authority) did Paul write this command?
8. In what did he exhort them not to be weary?
9. What did he pray that the Lord of peace would give them?
10. With what benediction did he close this letter?
11. Our society has certain people who have become "professional beggars" constantly appealing to churches to provide benevolence for their needs. Should churches deny help to them? Do churches show them "love" by providing whatever they request?



Curiously, Titus is not mentioned in Acts. But other references show us he was part of Paul's "army".

1. The journey to Jerusalem described in Galatians 2:1-10 corresponds to Acts 15. What was the issue, and how was Titus involved in this precedent?
  
2. Most of the references to Titus in the New Testament are in II Corinthians. Read 2:12-13; 7:6-16; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18. From these passages, what was his role in both epistles to the church in Corinth?
  
3. How did Paul regard Titus? (II Cor. 8:23; Titus 1:4)
  
4. Where was Titus when he received this letter? Did Paul ever visit this place?
  
5. What does the wording of 1:5 suggest about how Titus came to be there?
  
6. What does 3:12 suggest about Titus' assignment? What does it also say about Paul's situation?
  
7. What were some of Paul's objectives in writing to Titus?
  - 1:5; 2:2-6
  - 2:1
  - 2:7-8
  - 1:11; 3:10
  
8. Titus has a rather lengthy greeting (v. 1-4). What concepts does Paul mention in the greeting?

1. What was Paul's commission to Titus? What significance is there to Paul's wording?
2. List the 13 qualifications given in v. 6-9.
3. Which qualifications go beyond what is to be expected of Christians in general?
4. Why do you suppose the lists in 1 Timothy and Titus are not exactly the same? What difficulties (if any) does this create?
5. In your mind, which qualifications hardest to understand or interpret? What makes them that way? Do you think Titus had those doubts too?
6. What is said in these instructions to Titus about how to identify and appoint these men (i.e., the process)?
7. In giving Titus these instructions, what is Paul's expectation about the availability of qualified men in that place and time? Do you find that surprising?
8. What is an elder's leadership likened to? (Acts 20:28b; I Peter 5:2-3) Describe how this type of leadership differs from a leader in most other areas of society today.
9. According to v. 9, what is a primary duty of elders? What are some other duties? (Acts 15:6; 20:28,31,35; I Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17; James 5:14)

1. What problem were the elders (and Titus) having to confront?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who seems to have been the source of these controversies? (v. 10, 14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Were these people believers or not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What was their motivation (v. 11)? How does v. 12 build on v. 11?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does v. 15 mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What important principle should we heed from v. 16?

1. In v. 1, who is Paul contrasting Titus with when he says “but”?
  
2. Much like I Timothy, Paul gives Titus instructions regarding various members of the congregational family. First off, Paul urged what behavior from older men?
  
3. How do these instructions differ from those to elders in the official sense?
  
4. What behavior was expected of older women?
  
5. Titus was to urge younger men to behave how?
  
6. What were the younger women to be taught?
  
7. Who was to teach the younger women those things? Why not by Titus?
  
8. How was Titus himself urged to behave?

1. Titus was to urge slaves to behave how?
  
2. Why might this be a difficult way for a slave to act?
  
3. From v. 1 and 11, what was the underlying reason for prescribing these behaviors for the various members?
  
4. How did the grace of God appear? In what way has God's grace brought salvation to all?
  
5. What two facets of instruction are given in v. 12?
  
6. Where else in the Bible have we seen the idea of a people for God's own possession?
  
7. What word appears some five times in chapters 1-2 as a requirement of behavior?

1. Who are “them” in v. 1?
2. Paul lists seven things in v. 1-2. How do the ones in v. 1 differ from the ones in v. 2?
3. Who are “we” in v. 3? What is the significance of “for”?
4. What is Paul referring to in v. 4? Where have we seen this figure of speech before?
5. What does not save us? What does save us? Does this mean we don’t have to do anything?
6. What are the “washing of regeneration” and the “renewing of the Holy Spirit”?

1. What contrast is given in v. 8-9?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who is the “factious man” of v. 10? Can you think of anyone in the NT who would qualify?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does it mean to “reject” the factious man?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What two things do we learn from v. 12?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What was Titus asked to do for Zenas and Apollos? How does v. 14 add to the instruction?

1. If you have access to a Bible reference, what does the name Philemon mean?
2. Who might Apphia be?
3. Where else is there a reference to Archippus? What does this suggest about Philemon's location?
4. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter?
5. How would you characterize the relationship between Paul and Philemon?
6. What was the basis for the strong emotions Paul felt for Philemon?
7. What had Philemon done for the brethren?
8. Paul calls Philemon a fellow worker. So was Philemon a preacher too?



1. Verse 10 begins the real reason for this letter. Who was Onesimus?
2. Why was Onesimus in Rome at all? Was he supposed to be there?
3. What had changed about Onesimus from the time he left Philemon? How did that come about?
4. If you have a Bible reference, what does the name Onesimus mean?
5. What is the significance of Paul “sending him back” to Philemon?
6. If Onesimus was so useful to Paul, and already there with him, why not just send the letter first and then send the man if Philemon wanted him back?
7. Did Paul have the authority to command Philemon what to do? Why didn't he?
8. Does God operate that way with us sometimes? Give examples.
9. Onesimus lived with Philemon for some time but did not obey the gospel until he came in contact with Paul. What do you make of that?
10. Did Onesimus' conversion release him from his obligation as a slave? What are some comparable situations today?

1. What was Paul's plea to Philemon? How could a slave receive the same reception as the apostle?
2. Did Onesimus steal something from Philemon? What did Paul say about that if he had?
3. Paul says he won't mention something in v. 19 and then proceeds to do so. What does it mean that Philemon owed himself to Paul?
4. But did Paul want anything monetary or material from Philemon? What did he want?
5. Paul was confident that Philemon would go beyond the specific request of Paul. In all likelihood what was Paul nudging Philemon to do?
6. What does Paul's request for lodging suggest about his current imprisonment? If Paul planned to lodge with Philemon, what sort of peer pressure would this place on him?
7. What courage did it take for Onesimus to carry this letter from Rome to Colossæ? How could Paul trust Onesimus to fulfill his request?
8. Where else in the NT is Onesimus mentioned? What about the others in v. 22-23?
9. Did Paul argue a case for Onesimus' freedom based on moral arguments against slavery? Was Philemon rebuked for having a slave? Yet how could Christianity abolish slavery?