week 9

Studying

THE CHURCHAAA

Together

[a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading - 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Keep in Mind

Paul, Silas, and Timothy were the ones who introduced the Thessalonians to the gospel of Jesus (see Acts 17:1-9). There was hostility toward these messengers when they started the church there, and it seems safe to assume that the hostility continued toward the church after they left.

Did You Notice?

1. What three things produced the church’s work, prompted their labor, and inspired their endurance? (see 1:3)

2. What was the clear evidence that God has chosen those in the church? (1:4-5)

3. Whom did the disciples in the church choose to imitate? (1:6)

What Do You Think?

1. Who are the people in our congregation that can be imitated as we seek to imitate the Lord Jesus? (see 1:6)

2. How do you suppose the message rang out from the church (see 1:8)? Can the same be said of our church?

Day 2

Reading - 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-20

Keep in Mind

The outrageous treatment in Philippi Paul referenced in 2:2 is described in Acts 16:16-40. Paul, Silas, and Timothy had apparently been accused of being false messengers with false motives, so Paul wrote this as a defense.

Did You Notice?

1. What did Paul say that they did **not** do when they were with them? (see 2:3-6)

2. How did Paul describe their attitude and behavior toward the church? (see 2:7-12)

3. What had Paul and his companions urged the disciples in Thessalonica to do? (2:12)

What Do You Think?

1. What false or impure motives might a church have in sharing the message of Jesus or inviting people to come to services?

2. What do you think it means that they shared their lives with the Thessalonians? (see 2:8)

Day 3

Reading - 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13

Keep in Mind

It was a particular burden for Paul that he had to leave churches in order to move on to his next assignment. He was constantly concerned for their welfare knowing that the Enemy would try to deceive and distract them.

Did You Notice?

1. Why did Paul send Timothy to the Thessalonians? (see 3:2-3)

2. What did Paul fear may have happened to the church in his absence? (3:5)

3. What did Paul pray that God would do for the church? (3:11-13)

What Do You Think?

1. How does your concern for your church family compare to Paul’s concern for the Thessalonian church expressed in this chapter?

2. What is your role in supplying what is lacking in our congregation’s faith? (see 3:10)

Day 4

Reading - 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

Keep in Mind

While most of the first disciples in Thessalonica were Jews, the city was primarily populated by pagan Gentiles. Therefore, their instructions about Christ-like behavior and standards would have been striking to the people there.

Did You Notice?

1. What was Paul’s focus in 4:3-8 in reminding the Thessalonians about what **not** to do.

2. Those who reject the instructions given by the apostles are ultimately rejecting whom? (4:8)

3. What were the things Paul wrote that disciples **should** do? (4:9-12)

What Do You Think?

1. Are there any areas in your life in which you are not controlling your body, but are living in passionate lust? Do you need to turn from any sexual sins?

2. Are you living a quiet and productive life that will win the respect of outsiders? (4:11-12)

Day 5

Reading - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-11

Keep in Mind

Paul had been writing about the return of the Lord, and that is the “day” he is talking about in 5:4. Jesus’ return will mean judgment and punishment for His enemies, but it will mean fellowship and salvation for His people.

Did You Notice?

1. Why shouldn’t the day of Jesus’ return be a surprise to His disciples? (5:4-5)

2. Since we belong to the day, what should we be and do? (5:8)

3. Why did Jesus die for us? (5:10)

What Do You Think?

1. We usually connect being “sober” with being clean of drugs and alcohol. What do you think Paul meant when he wrote that disciples of Jesus are meant to be “sober” because they live in the light?