

READ The BIBLE Together



1 & 2 Thessalonians

26th January – 22nd March 2014

SHALOM CHURCH, SINGAPORE
(Upholding the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith)

Day 1 Read **Introductory Notes – 1 THESSALONIANS** below.

1 THESSALONIANS is a New Testament epistle from Paul to the church in Thessalonica. Before this letter was written, the following events have taken place:

- (A) Jesus Christ our Lord has come into this world as a babe born in a manger, worked as a carpenter and started His public ministry at the age of thirty for a period of three years.
- (B) He was sold to His enemies by Judas Iscariot, and the Jews joined hands with the Romans to put Him to death on the cross. Yet He did not remain dead, but rose from it on the third day and appeared to many of His disciples. Forty days later, Jesus ascended to heaven.
- (C) Ten days after His ascension on the Day of Pentecost, He sent the Holy Spirit upon the church, and from that day onwards, the church began to advance its agenda of making disciples of all the nations.
- (D) One of the most avowed opponents of the Christian Church – Saul of Tarsus was converted and became one of the most zealous missionaries, seeking to preach Christ where He was not known.
- (E) Saul of Tarsus, now known as Paul the apostle, went on various missionary journeys to preach the gospel. On his second missionary journey, Paul and his companions (Silas and Timothy) left Philippi, passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, and arrived at Thessalonica. It was the capital and largest city of the Roman province of Macedonia. Located on the Egnatian Way, a major road from Rome to the eastern provinces, the city served as center of trade and commerce.
- (F) While in Thessalonica, Paul went to the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews for three Sabbaths concerning Jesus Christ. While some of them were persuaded, including a great number of devout Greeks and leading women, the unbelieving Jews became jealous and created uproar in the city. Therefore it became necessary to send Paul and his co-workers away secretly by night to Berea. Read **ACTS 17:1-9** for details.
- (G) Despite such ominous beginnings, a strong church was established in Thessalonica. Mostly Gentiles (cf. **1 THESSALONIANS 1:9**), its members included Jason (**ACTS 17:9**) Aristarchus, and Secundus (**ACTS 20:4**).

The abrupt departure from Thessalonica so soon after the planting of the church naturally left Paul anxious about the condition of the brethren there. When Timothy joined Paul at Athens (**ACTS 17:14-16**), his concern prompted Paul to send Timothy at once back to Thessalonica to encourage and ground the new disciples in the faith, and

to learn how they were faring in the face of persecution (**1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5**).

When Timothy returned to Paul in Corinth (**ACTS 18:5**), the news was mostly encouraging (**1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-7**). Despite persecution they had remained strong (**1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**), and even proved themselves to be an example to others (**1 THESSALONIANS 1:6-8**). Yet, as with any young church, they needed further instruction concerning holy living (**1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12**). They also needed to be reassured that their loved ones who died in Christ would not miss out on the blessings involving the coming of our Lord (**1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**).

Therefore we can summarize by saying that Paul's objectives in writing the epistles were:

- *To praise them for their steadfastness under persecution*
- *To instruct them concerning holy living*
- *To correct any misunderstanding, especially about the second coming of Christ*

Like the Thessalonian Christians, we too live between the time of Christ's first coming and His return. Like them, we ought to be steadfast in the faith when we face oppositions, and like them we need instructions concerning holy living in this already-but-not-yet period of redemptive history. In light of this, **1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-13** would be a suitable key verse for this epistle, and for us to memorize:

*And may the Lord make you increase and abound
in love to one another and to all,
just as we do to you,
so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness
before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.*

1. Paul writing **1 THESSALONIANS** to the Thessalonian Christians was not something unique. After planting churches, Paul would often write letters to them subsequently, either to further instruct them, comfort them or correct them.

How would this simple observation change the way you view the Christian Life?

2. In **1 THESSALONIANS**, Paul emphasized the importance of steadfastness in the faith and holiness of life (see *Paul's purpose in writing* above). At the same time, Paul would mention the second coming of Christ at regular juncture in this epistle: **1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18** and **5:23**.

What do you think is the relation between '*steadfastness in the faith and holiness of life*' and '*Christ's second coming*'?

Day 2 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4**

These 4 verses contain Paul's salutations and prayer of thanksgiving – the usual way Paul begins his epistles.

1. Who joined Paul in his salutations? (**Verse 1**)
2. How did Paul address the church? (**Verse 1**)
3. In his prayer of thanksgiving regarding the Thessalonians, Paul was especially thankful for . . . (**Verse 3**)
 - *their work of faith*
 - *their labor of love*
 - *their patience of hope*
 - (a) Write down your understanding of each of the items of Paul's thanksgiving above. (Discuss your answers with your RTBT group to ensure that your understanding is right)

(b) Ask your RTBT group: "*Do you see the same three things present in my life?*"

If "Yes", then what should you/the group do?

If "No", then what should you/the group do?

Day 3 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10**

In **verse 4**, Paul says concerning the Thessalonian Christians, “*Knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.*”

What is ‘election’?

EPHESIANS 1:3-5 say:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

- ‘Election’ is something God did before the foundation of the world
- ‘Election’ is God choosing some people to be adopted as His sons by Jesus Christ
- ‘Election’ is God acting according to the good pleasure of His will

The Baptist Catechism (1693) says this concerning ‘election’:

Q23: *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

A: *God having out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.*

Ponder: *If election is something God did in eternity (before the foundation of the world), then how could Paul know that God has elected the Thessalonian Christians (Verse 4)?*

Day 4 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10** again

1. How did the gospel come to the Thessalonians? (**Verse 5**)
2. How had the Thessalonians become followers of Paul and the Lord? (**Verse 6**)

3. For whom had the Thessalonian Christians become examples to? (**Verse 7**)
4. What two things had sounded forth, or gone out, from the Thessalonians? (**Verse 8**)
5. **Verses 9-10** mention two evidences of *true* conversion, and they are both found in the lives of these Thessalonian Christians. What are they?
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Are these two things *visibly* present in your life right now?

Day 5 Summary of **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10**

Review your answers in Day 4 above, then give a summary paragraph (no more than 10 lines) for these 7 verses below:

Recall the question in Day 3:

If election is something God did in eternity (before the foundation of the world), then how did Paul know that God had elected the Thessalonian Christians (verse 4)?

The answer is right here in these 7 verses!

Day 6 Applications arising from **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10**

We have not understood a passage of Scripture fully until we know how to apply it to our daily lives. Below are two ways we can apply **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10**:

[1] “How do I know if I am an elect?”

This is a question that troubles some people! Yet we need not be troubled, if we take **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10** to heart. Paul said that he knew these Thessalonian Christians were God’s elect. How? Not by some magical way of looking into God’s eternal decree, but by seeing the changed lives of these people!

Review your answers to the questions in Day 4 or your summary paragraph in Day 5. Perhaps you could turn them into a checklist, and then ask yourself: *Are these things visibly and increasingly true of my life?*

[2] “Should we receive that person into membership?”

Concerning the Universal Church, our Baptist Confession says this:

The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Chapter 26 Paragraph 1

The Universal Church consists of the whole number of the elect. In other words, only the elect of God are members of the Universal Church. Each local church should seek to reflect this truth, admitting only God’s elect into its membership. This is how our Baptist Confession puts it:

All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, not destroying their own profession by any errors everting the foundation, or unholiness of conversation, are and may be called visible saints; and of such ought all particular congregations to be constituted.

Chapter 26 Paragraph 2

God’s elect are visible saints. Only visible saints should be admitted into the local church. How would visible saints look like? **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10** provide us with the answer!

Hence, the next time the church meets to decide if we should admit that person into membership, turn to **1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10**.

Day 7 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

Here, Paul continues to talk about his first visit with the Thessalonians. Instead of talking about how they responded to his ministry (**1:5-10**), he is now talking about how he and his co-workers conducted themselves among them.

After reading these 12 verses, write down your first impression(s) below:

Do you sense that Paul and his co-workers were the objects of some criticisms and he was seeking to give a defense of themselves here? If so, where can you see this from these 12 verses?

Week 2

[2nd – 8th February 2014]

Day 1 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-6**

1. (a) What had Paul endured prior to his visit to Thessalonica? (**Verse 2a**)

(b) What was his attitude/conduct when he arrived? (**Verse 2b**)

Note: For a more detailed description of what Paul experienced before arriving at Thessalonica, please read **ACTS 16:16-40**.

2. What DID NOT characterize Paul's conduct while he was at Thessalonica? (**Verses 3-6**)

Day 2 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-12**

1. What DID characterize Paul's conduct while he was at Thessalonica? (**Verses 9-10**)
2. What pictures did Paul use to describe his dealings with the Thessalonian Christians?

Verse 7:

Verse 11:

What do you think Paul was seeking to convey by using these pictures?

3. What did Paul impart to them along with the gospel of God (**verse 8**) and what does this mean?
4. What was Paul's aim as he ministered among them? (**Verse 12**)

Day 3 Summary of **1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

Review your answers in Days 1 & 2 above, then write a summary paragraph (no more than 10 lines) of these 12 verses below:

Think: What relevance do these 12 verses have for Shalom Church?

Day 4 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**

These 4 verses form the last portion of Paul's reminiscences concerning his first visit to the Thessalonians.

After reading **1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**, answer: *What is Paul's point here?*

[In Day 5, questions will be provided to help us dig into these 4 verses so that we can come to an understanding of Paul's point here. However, it is good to train ourselves to grapple with scripture texts on our own without the help of those questions. This is so that we may eventually be able to formulate our own questions to "interrogate" Scripture passages as we seek to understand them. ***Hence, please make a real attempt to answer the question above.*** 😊]

Day 5 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16** again

1. According to **verse 13**, how had the Thessalonians received the word of God that they heard from Paul?

2. What is said about the Word of God and those who believe it? (**Verse 13**)

3. According to **verse 14**, who had the Thessalonian Christians imitated and how?

4. According to **verses 14-16**, what had the Jews done?

Day 6 Summary of **1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**

Review your answers in Day 5 above, and then write a short paragraph summarizing these 4 verses below:

Revisit the question in Day 4: *What is Paul's point here?* Do you need to make any changes to that answer in the light of your summary paragraph above?

What lessons can you/have you learnt from these 4 verses? (Bear in mind the context)

Day 7 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13**

After reading these 17 verses, let's try to outline this passage:

- Paul's genuine but thwarted desires towards the Thessalonians (**2:17-20**)
- Paul's reasons for sending Timothy to visit the Thessalonians (**3:1-5**)
- _____ (**3:6-10**)
- _____ (**3:11-13**)

Can you fill in the blanks above?

Week 3

[9th – 15th February 2014]

Day 1 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-20**

In these four verses, we read of Paul's genuine but thwarted desires towards the Thessalonian Christians.

1. According to **verse 17**, what was the desire of Paul's heart?
2. Why was Paul unable to carry out his heart's desire? (**Verse 18**)
3. (a) How did Paul view these Thessalonian Christians? (**Verses 19-20**)

(b) What does this tell you about his relationship with them?

(c) Is it right for Paul to feel this way towards these people? (Give more than a "Yes/No" answer)
4. Can you think of one application from these four verses?

Day 2 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5**

In these five verses, we read of Paul's reasons for sending Timothy to visit the Thessalonian Christians.

1. Where were Paul and Timothy when Paul decided to send Timothy to go to Thessalonica? (**Verse 1**)

Note: This is a distance (estimate) of over 300km. While you will need about 4 hours (by today's modern roads) to drive from there to Thessalonica, in the ancient world you will probably need about 4 weeks to cover this distance!

2. According to these 5 verses, there were two main reasons for this visit by Timothy, one from Paul's perspective and the other from the Thessalonians' perspective.

(a) What's the reason, from Paul's perspective? (**Verses 1 & 5**)

(b) What's the reason, from the Thessalonians' perspective? (**Verses 2-3**)

3. What are your thoughts concerning Paul's actions in these five verses?

Is it wrong because he was overly anxious, not learning to trust in the Lord to keep the Thessalonian Christians?

Or is it right because he was exercising his pastoral care and duty?

(Give more than a "Yes/No" answer)

4. Can you think of one application from these five verses?

Day 3 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-10**

1. What good news had Timothy brought back to Paul? (**Verse 6**)

2. (a) How did this news affect Paul? (**Verses 7-9**)

(b) Do you think it is right for Paul to respond in this way? (Give more than a "Yes/No" answer)

3. What did Paul pray for night and day? (**Verse 10**)
4. Review your answers to Questions 1-3 above.
 - (a) Write a one-line summary of these 5 verses:
 - (b) Re-read the Outline of **1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13** in Week 2 Day 7, especially what you have written for **3:6-10**, and compare it with your answer in Question 4(a).

Are they the same? What needs to be changed?
5. Can you think of one way you can apply the message of these 5 verses in your life?

Day 4 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 3:11-12**

1. What did Paul pray for concerning himself? (**Verse 11**)
2. What did Paul pray for concerning the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verses 12-13**)
3. Do you think his two prayers are entirely separate matters or are they linked? Elaborate.
4. Can you think of one way you can apply the message of these 3 verses in your life?

Day 5 Review of **1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-3:12**

We have spent the past 18 days reading/studying the first part of **1 THESSALONIANS** in some detail. While it is good to do that, it is very possible that we may miss the forest for the trees.

Hence, let's pause and review the first 3 chapters of **1 THESSALONIANS**, or your answers from Week 1 Day 1 to Week 3 Day 4.

What do you think is the main message Paul wanted to convey to the Thessalonian Christians from these 3 chapters?

Day 6 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12**

After reading these 12 verses, write down your first impression(s) of it:

Do you sense that what was said in these 12 verses is, in essence, quite different from what was said in the first three chapters of **THESSALONIANS**? If so, what is the difference?

Day 7 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8**

1. What did Paul urge and exhort the Thessalonian Christians to do? (**Verse 1**)
2. The first area of ethical concerns that Paul wanted to address is found in **verses 3-7**.
 - (a) What is it?
 - (b) What motivations did Paul give for obeying the call here? (**Verses 3, 7**)

3. What are the implications if they reject Paul's exhortation here?

Week 4

[16th – 22nd February 2014]

Day 1 Read 1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

These four verses contain the second area of ethical concerns that Paul wanted to address to the Thessalonian Christians. It is '*brotherly love*' (**verses 9-10**)

1. How should they express '*brotherly love*' in their situation then? (**Verse 11**)

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2. What are the motivations for doing what Paul said in **verse 11**? (**Verse 12**)

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3. Ponder: *Why are the three things mentioned in **verse 11** the expression of brotherly love among the Thessalonian Christians?*

Day 2 Review of 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

Review your answers in Week 3 Day 7 above. In a paragraph of no more than five lines, write down what you think is the message of 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8:

Review your answers in Week 4 Day 1 above. In a paragraph of no more than five lines, write down what you think is the message of **1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**:

We have not truly understood a passage of Scripture until we know how to apply it to our daily lives. Think of two ways we can apply **1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12**:

(a)

(b)

Day 3 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

After reading these 6 verses, what do you think is the main subject of this passage of Scripture? [This may not be something easy for you to do, but do make an attempt to do it. It is good exercise/practice. 😊]

Day 4 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18** again

1. According to **verses 13-14**, what does Paul want the Thessalonian Christians to know? Why?

2. According to **verses 16-17**, what will happen when Jesus comes again?

3. What does Paul want the Thessalonian believers to do in response to what he has taught them on this matter? (**Verse 18**)

Day 5 Summary of **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

Review your answers in Day 4 above, then write a summary of these 6 verses below:

After writing the summary, think of one way you can apply the message of these 6 verses in your life:

Day 6 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

After reading these 11 verses, what do you think is the main subject of this passage of Scripture? [This may not be something easy for you to do, but do make an attempt to do it. It is a good exercise/practice.😊]

Day 7 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11** again

1. Concerning what did Paul feel there was no need to write to the Thessalonians about? (**Verse 1**)
2. (a) What did they already know? (**Verse 2**)

(b) Can you say that you also know these things? Why?

3. (a) What will people be saying when the Lord comes again? (**Verse 3**)

(b) What will come upon them when the Lord comes again?

4. Why will the Day of the Lord not overtake Christians as a thief? (**Verses 4-5**)

Week 5

[23rd February – 1st March 2014]

Day 1 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11** again

1. What is our responsibility as "sons of light" and "sons of the day"? (**Verse 6**)

2. What are we to put on? (**Verse 8**)

3. To what has God appointed us? (**Verse 9**)

4. Why did Jesus die for us? (**Verse 10**)

5. What did Paul want the Thessalonian believers to do in response to what he has taught them on this matter? (**Verse 11**)

Day 2 Summary of **1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

Review your answers in Day 1 above, then write a summary of these 11 verses below:

After writing the summary, think of one way you can apply the message of these 11 verses in your life:

Day 3 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22**

After reading these 11 verses, write down your first impression(s) of it:

How is this section different from the previous two sections (**1:1-3:13** and **4:1-5:11**)?

Day 4 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22** again

1. What is our responsibility to those who labor among us and are over us in the Lord? (**Verses 12-13a**)

2. In **verse 13b**, Paul calls them to “*be at peace among yourselves.*”
- (a) What do you think this mean?
- (b) Do you think this has anything to do with what he said in **verses 12-13a**? Elaborate.
3. If we have difficulty carrying out Paul’s exhortations in **verses 12-13**, what should we do?
4. What six charges did Paul give concerning those around us? (**Verses 14-15**)
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4. Look at the first three charges above.
- (a) For each of them, can you think of one person for which you need to do this?
- (b) What challenges would you face, as you seek to carry out this duty?

Day 5 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22** again

1. What three things does Paul say is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus? (**Verses 16-18**)

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2. Of the three things stated above, which do you find it hardest to do? Why?

3. Paul gave five admonitions in **verses 19-22**. Write them down in the box provided below, and give a brief explanation of what they mean.

<u>Admonition</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Day 6 Read **1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28**

1. For what two things did Paul pray on behalf of the Thessalonians? (**Verse 23**)
2. What assurance is there that God will answer Paul's prayer? (**Verse 24**)
3. What three final things did Paul want the Thessalonian Christians to do? (**Verses 25-27**)
4. Look at Paul's benediction in **verse 28**. What does it mean?

Day 7 Review of **1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-5:28**

We have spent the past 15 days reading/studying the second part of **1 THESSALONIANS** in some detail. It is a good time to pause and review the last 2 chapters of **1 THESSALONIANS**, or your answers from Week 3 Day 6 to Week 5 Day 6.

Write down the most important lesson you've learnt from **1 THESSALONIANS 4-5** about

- God:
- Man:
- Christian Life:

Day 1 Read **Introductory Notes – 2 THESSALONIANS** below.

The apostle Paul wrote **1 THESSALONIANS** around AD 50/51. You might recall that in that epistle, he had to strongly defend his personal integrity. This issue appeared to have been dealt with sufficiently, as we do not find him returning to this matter in **2 THESSALONIANS**.

In **1 THESSALONIANS**, Paul had much to say about the second coming of Christ. He had stressed that this event will take place suddenly. Either from misunderstanding of this matter or some other reasons, some of the Thessalonian Christians continued to have wrong ideas concerning Christ's return. Hence, in **2 THESSALONIANS** we shall find Paul having to return to this subject and give more teachings on it.

When he first wrote, Paul knew of certain people in the church who were living in an unruly way due to a wrong application of the doctrine of Christ's return. He had briefly mentioned these things in **1 THESSALONIANS**, but they have not heeded his admonition. Instead, the problem appeared to have worsened! Hence, in **2 THESSALONIANS** we find Paul spending considerable space and time to deal with this matter, and giving instructions to the church on how to deal with those who continue to be disobedient!

The above three paragraphs provide us with a cross-section of what pastoral work and the Christian life look like! Sometimes issues are resolved, sometimes other related issues arise, and at other times, the matter just got worse! It is easy to be discouraged and give up. Paul's prayer in **2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17** is timely and fitting, not just for the Thessalonian Christians, not just for Paul himself, but also for us today!

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself,
and our God and Father,
who has loved us and given us
everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,
comfort your hearts and establish you
in every good word and work.*

Take some time to memorize 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17.

Day 2 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-12**

Like in **1 THESSALONIANS**, Silvanus and Timothy joined Paul in writing **2 THESSALONIANS**. In addition, Paul addressed his readers and greeted them like how he did in **1 THESSALONIANS (verses 1-2)**.

Focus on **verses 3-12**. Write down your first impression(s) of these 10 verses:

What do you think the Thessalonian Christians were experiencing then? Do you think they are coping, succumbing or overcoming?

Day 3 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-10**

We are going to spend the next two days studying **2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-10** in greater detail. Today, we shall start with **verses 3-5**.

1. For what did Paul give thanks to God concerning the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 3**)

Note: Recall Paul's prayer for them in **1 THESSALONIANS 3:12**. So here he is recording God's answer to his prayer!

2. For what did Paul boast among the churches of God regarding the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 4**)
3. What was said of the Thessalonian Christians in **verses 3-4** actually took place in the context of severe sufferings. (**Verse 4**: "*all*" shows that their troubles had been many, while the present tense of the verb "*you endure*" make it plain that their difficulties were not yet over.)
 - (a) What was the end result of their sufferings? (**Verse 5**)

(b) What does this mean?

Day 4 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-10**

We continue our study of **2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-10**, focusing on **verses 6-10** today.

1. (a) What does God consider a righteous thing to do?

Verse 6:

Verse 7:

(b) When will God do this?

2. (a) Upon whom will Jesus take vengeance in flaming fire? (**Verse 8**)

(b) How will they be punished? (**Verse 9**)

(c) When will this take place? (**Verse 10**)

5. According to **verse 10**, what two things will happen to Jesus when He comes?

Day 5 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12**

In light of what he has said in **verses 3-10**, Paul and his co-workers are going to pray for the Thessalonian Christians (note the “*therefore*” in **verse 11**).

What things did Paul pray for on behalf of the Thessalonian Christians?

Day 6 Summary of **2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-12**

Review your answers in Days 3-5 above, then give a summary paragraph (no more than 10 lines) for these 10 verses below:

What lessons can you/have you learnt from these 10 verses?

Day 7 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

It is clear from **verse 1** that the subject of these 12 verses concerns the return of Christ.

1. According to **verse 2**, why did Paul have to address this subject here?

2. According to **verse 3**, what two things must happen before Christ returns?

Week 7

[9th – 15th March 2014]

Day 1 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12** again

In **verse 3**, mention is made of the man of sin. He is called the son of perdition in the same verse as well as the lawless one in **verses 8 & 9**.

1. List the various descriptions of the man of sin, as given to us in **verses 3-4**.

2. (a) What will the man of sin be capable of doing? (**Verses 9-10**)

(b) How is he able to do these things? (**Verses 9**)

3. Review your answers to Questions 1 & 2 above. What do you think was Paul's purpose in telling the Thessalonian Christians (and us) these things?

Day 2 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12** again

1. What must happen before the man of sin will appear on the scene? (**Verses 7-8**)

2. (a) What will happen to the man of sin ultimately? (**Verse 8**)

(b) What do you think was Paul's purpose in telling the Thessalonian Christians (and us) these things?

Day 3 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

According to **verse 10a**, the man of sin would deceive some people. Why would they be deceived? (**Verses 10-12**)

[Make sure your answer includes both the 'God-ward' and 'man-ward' aspects]

Day 4 Summary of **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

For the past 4 days, we have read/studied **2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12** in some detail. While it is good to do that, it is very possible that we may miss the forest for the trees. Hence, it is always good to attempt to do a summary of the passage after our detailed study.

Admittedly, these 12 verses are not easy to understand. Hence, a summary of these 12 verses is done for you, as below:

*Some of the Thessalonians Christians had the wrong idea that Christ has returned. To correct their error, Paul told them that before Christ returns, there must first be the falling away as well as the revelation of the man of sin (**verses 1-3**). Paul then described this man of sin (**verse 4**) and explained that he is currently hindered from being revealed. This man of sin will work by the power of Satan and perform many signs and lying wonders (**verse 9**). He will deceive those who do not have a love for the truth, people who take pleasure in unrighteousness. And the man of sin will succeed because God would send these people a strong delusion, as punishment for the choice they made (**verses 10-12**)!*

1. Put yourselves in the shoes of the first readers. What do you think Paul wants you to do, after reading these 12 verses?
2. These 12 verses is God's Word (Scripture). Now that you've read them, what do you think is the response God wants from you?

Day 5 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17**

Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17** and then ask: *What is Paul's point here?*

[In the next few days, questions will be provided to help us dig into these 5 verses so that we can come to understand Paul's point here. However, it is good to train ourselves to grapple with the Scriptural text on our own without the help of those questions. This is so that one day we can formulate our own questions to ask the passage of Scripture as we seek to understand it. **Hence, please make a real attempt to answer the question above ☺**]

Day 6 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17**

The people in view in these 5 verses are the Thessalonian Christians. They stand in sharp contrast to those mentioned in the previous section, people who do not love the truth but take pleasure in unrighteousness. Note the "*but*" in **verse 13**.

1. According to **verse 13**, God chose the Thessalonians for salvation. We are back to the doctrine of election (see Week 1 Day 3).

How did God carry out His decree of election?

Verse 13:

Verse 14:

2. What is God's purpose in choosing these people for salvation? (**Verse 14**)

Day 7 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17** again

1. What two exhortations did Paul give the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 15**)
2. What two things did Paul mention that God and Jesus have given to them/us? (**Verse 16**)
3. What did Paul pray for that Jesus and God would do for the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 17**)

Week 8

[16th – 22nd March 2014]

Day 1 Summary of **2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17**

Review your answers in Week 7 Days 6 & 7 above, and then write a summary paragraph of these 5 verses below:

Revisit the question in Day 5: *What is Paul's point here?* Do you need to make any changes to that answer in light of your summary paragraph above?

What lessons can you/have you learnt from these 5 verses? (Bear in mind the context)

Day 2 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5**

1. For what two things did Paul ask them to pray for on his behalf? (**Verses 1-2**)
2. Since the Lord is faithful, what will He do? (**Verse 3**)
3. What confidence did Paul have in the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 4**)
4. (a) What did Paul ask the Lord to do for the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 5**)

(b) What does this mean?

Note: This would be a good prayer to adopt in praying for ourselves and for our fellow believers in this church.

Day 3 Summary of **2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5**

To ensure that we didn't miss the forest for the trees, let's do a summary of **2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5** below:

What lessons can you/have you learnt from these 5 verses?

Day 4 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15**

1. What is the apostolic command in **verse 6**?
2. What is the apostolic example given in **verses 7-9**?
3. What had Paul heard was going on among the brethren at Thessalonica? (**Verse 11**)
4. What did Paul command and exhort such busybodies to do? (**Verse 12**)

Day 5 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15**

1. Review your answers in Day 4, then consider: *Do you think this is a new problem that affected the Thessalonian Church only recently?* (Give a more than “Yes”/ “No” answer)
2. What do you think is the impact of this problem on the faithful believers in the church?
3. (a) What did Paul charge them to do if anyone should disobey his word? (**Verse 14**)

(b) What is the reason for such disciplinary action? (**Verse 14**)

- (c) How should they regard someone facing such disciplinary action? (**Verse 15**)

Day 6 Summary of **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15**

Review your answers in Day 4 & 5 above, then write a summary paragraph (no longer than 10 lines) for these 10 verses below:

Think of how you can apply these 10 verses in your life:

Day 7 Read **2 THESSALONIANS 3:16-18**

1. What was Paul's final prayer for the Thessalonian Christians? (**Verse 16**)

2. Why do you think Paul would pray in this way for them? (Recall the situation of the Thessalonian Christians.)

3. From this final prayer of Paul in **verse 16**, what lessons have you learnt concerning:
 - (a) Prayer?

(b) The Christian Life?

Final Review of 2 THESSALONIANS

What is the ONE MOST IMPORTANT lesson you have learnt from this epistle?

Acknowledgement

Whatever the weaknesses of this Read-The-Bible-Together guide, they would have been far greater without the kind help of TJAN Swi Tjhing and Sarah SOH in giving their time and energy to review the entire guide, asking questions all the way and giving many valuable suggestions.

Thank you, fellow labourers!

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another! (Proverbs 27:17, ESV)