

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #1, Book Overview

Read through the book of 1 Thessalonians twice before beginning this study. I know, I know, you're ready to start studying now! Be patient because the time spent reading now will bear much fruit in helping you understand the book! As you read, ask the Lord for His help and insight into the book before diving into the lesson.

Directions: Using *only* the text of 1 Thessalonians from your Bible, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to cite Scripture references to support your answers. *At this point you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible.* Don't worry though as you will have an opportunity later in this lesson to complete your answers using other Bible study sources.

Okay, ready? Using only your Bible, answer the questions that follow¹.

1. Who wrote the book?

2. To whom is it written?

3. When was it written?

4. Where was it written?

¹ The general overview questions are largely the same as the ones Kay Arthur first designed in her *Precept* Bible studies. Other authors use similar types of questions, but I want to acknowledge that I first learned to ask these kinds of questions from a couple of her Bible studies. Learning to ask the basic who, what, when, where, and why questions of observation and the first step in hermeneutics.

5. What was the author's purpose in writing the book?

6. What general subjects are covered in the book?

7. What are the key words in the book?

8. What is the atmosphere or general tone of the book?

Now you may consult your Study Bible notes, Bible dictionaries/encyclopedias, or commentaries. Feel free to go back and add any extra information you have learned to complete any of your answers to the preceding questions.

9. Explain the sequence of events surrounding Paul's visit to Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-18:5).

10. What do you discover about the city of Thessalonica from your study Bible or Bible dictionary/encyclopedia?