

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #4, Chapter 1:6-10

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. By way of review, summarize Paul's train of thought in verses 2-5.
2. Who did the Thessalonians imitate (verse 6)?
3. When did the Thessalonians become imitators (verse 6)?
4. Look up 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; and Hebrews 6:12 to see who we are to imitate and to what degree we are to imitate them.
5. Do you say as Paul does, "Imitate me as I follow Christ?" If so, how does that guide your conduct and help you to follow Christ more closely? If you don't want people to imitate your behavior, why not? Could it be that you need to work on some areas?
6. Trace the progression of the *Word* in verses 5, 6, and 8 (NIV translates it *message* in verses 6 and 8). What do you observe about its work and effect upon those who hear it?
7. How did the Thessalonians receive the word or message preached (verse 6)?

8. Read Acts 17:5-10 to remind yourself of the atmosphere into which the new believers found themselves. See also 1 Thessalonians 2:14 and 2 Thessalonians 1:4 for a further description of their trials. What do you learn?

9. From verses 6 and 7, explain how the Thessalonians became an example to all believers.

10. Define *example* [Strong's #5179 (NIV *model*)] from verse 7:

11. Look up the following verses to see what the Bible has to say about being an example: Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 5:3.

12. The Scriptures teach that we are to be examples of godliness for one another. How have you been encouraged to excel still more by someone else's example?

13. Verse 8 reveals the next step the Thessalonians took in response to the message of the Gospel. What did they do?

14. The Thessalonians had been so enthusiastic in sharing their faith that the stage was already set for Paul and his coworkers when they traveled through other areas of Macedonia and into Achaia. What did the Thessalonians tell those that they met about Paul and his message (verses 8-10)?

15. What kind of reception or entrance did Paul have in Thessalonica (see verses 5-6, 9)?

16. What actions accompanied their turning as described in verse 9?

17. The Thessalonians' turning represented a complete change in their life—a 180-degree, exact opposite kind of turn. As you think of your life, even now after salvation, how are you turning to God and from idols, from sin, from the world's distractions?

18. Compare what the Bible says about idols with the living and true God.
 - a. Idols: Psalm 115:4-8; 135:15-17; Habakkuk 2:18-19.

 - b. God: Deuteronomy 5:26; Joshua 3:10; Jeremiah 10:7-16; Acts 14:15.

19. Richard Mayhue in his commentary on this passage states, "An idol is anything, any attitude, any belief, or any god that so captures a person's attention and allegiance that God does not have pre-eminence." The Thessalonians turned their backs on all that was empty and false and served and worshiped the living and true God. Is there any idol or allegiance in your life that you need to turn away from so you can serve the living and true God more completely?

20. Who are the Thessalonians waiting for and why (verse 10)?

21. Look up the following verses about the coming of Christ. What do you observe about His coming from each? See 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8; James 5:8; Revelation 1:7; 3:11.

22. What kind of attitude are we to possess concerning the coming of Christ: 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:13?

23. What path do you find your thoughts taking concerning the return of Christ? Do they echo the sentiments of the Paul in the above verses or do your thoughts take a different path? Are there any attitudes that you need to adjust in your thinking so that you may respond with a wholehearted, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

CHRIST IS THE EXEMPLAR OF OUR LIFE. WHERE THERE IS THE SAME LIFE WITHIN, THERE WILL, THERE MUST BE, TO A GREAT EXTENT, THE SAME DEVELOPMENTS WITHOUT; AND IF WE LIVE IN NEAR FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS WE SHALL GROW LIKE HIM. WE SHALL SET HIM BEFORE US AS OUR DIVINE COPY, AND WE SHALL SEEK TO TREAD IN HIS FOOTSTEPS, UNTIL HE SHALL BECOME THE CROWN OF OUR LIFE IN GLORY.

— C.H. SPURGEON