

# **1 Thessalonians**

## **Lesson #8, Chapter 3 Overview**

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation<sup>1</sup> is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-5).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 6-10).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 11-13).

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<sup>1</sup> The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.
  
6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.
  
8. What do you learn about Paul's afflictions in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

### **1 Thessalonians Chapter 3**

**1** Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,

**2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,

**3** so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

**4** For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

**5** For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

**6** But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

**7** for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

**8** for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

**9** For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

**10** as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

**11** Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;

**12** and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;

**13** so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.