

With The Master In View of His Return

Lesson 2 - Paul's Thankful Heart for the Church of Thessalonica - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

1. (a) Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4 making note of all the differences and all the similarities of these introductions in these two Epistles. (b) Why do you think it is important to compare Scripture with Scripture?
2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 1:2
3. Paul tells the church at Thessalonica that he remembers three things about them—their work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope. Read Revelation 2 and 3 and notice the messages to the seven churches, especially noting the things that Jesus says He remembers about each church. (a) Which of those things are similar to the church at Thessalonica? (b) Which of those things are different? (c) What three things do you think Jesus would commend your church for?
4. Paul mentions that the Thessalonians were elect by God—verse 4. (a) What do the following passages say about the elect of God? Matthew 24:24; 24:31; Luke 18:7; Romans 8:32, 33; Colossians 3:12-15; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:10, 11. (b) How would you explain the doctrine of election? (c) When you consider that God elected you before the foundation of the world, what response do you think this should produce in you? (d) How does one know that they have been elected by God?
5. Give an example of each of the following: a work of faith, a labor of love, and patience of hope.
6. Are you in the habit of giving thanks in all things and for all people? Even in the hard circumstances and the difficult people? How can we be a more thankful people?
7. What three things do you think you would be remembered for?
8. Write a prayer to God for your church.