



Week 6
July 13–19

Quick Facts about First and Second Thessalonians

- The first letter to the Thessalonians was likely Paul's first letters, probably written by the end of A.D. 52, making it, so far as is now known, the oldest existing Christian document.
- In the second letter, the majority of the Thessalonians were continuing to grow and to remain faithful to Christ in spite of persecution. However, false teaching concerning the day of the Lord had entered the church and was causing confusion and leading some of the Christians to quit their jobs in expectation of the Lord's return. Paul commended his children in the faith for their growth and faithfulness, corrected the doctrinal error about the day of the Lord, and warned the idle to get back to work.

Quick Facts about First Timothy:

- Timothy was a young man who was probably converted during Paul's first missionary journey.
- When Paul returned to the area a year or two later, Timothy was recommended to him as a faithful disciple of Christ who would make a good traveling companion.
- Timothy is always associated with Paul in a mentor/apprentice relationship.
- Paul addresses the false teachers who were characterized as proud, arrogant, contentious and greedy. These teachers were more involved in speculating about obscure matters rather than exposition about Christ and the Christian lifestyle of love.

Quick Facts about Second Timothy:

- Although similar to First Timothy, Second Timothy is far more personal in tone. Paul wishes to pass on the commitment of a life lived for the cause of Christ to a younger man who will carry the torch farther.
- Paul writes this letter waiting for his full trial but he did not expect to be released.
- Whether he ever saw Timothy again is unknown.
- According to tradition, Paul was beheaded shortly after this letter was written.

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

1. Of the two brothers, which reminds you of your own story?
2. Why do you think the Father did not take time to get an explanation from his son?
3. Have there been seasons of your life where you were in the pig pen? If so, how did you feel God received you when you returned?

The Lord's Grace to Paul (I Timothy 1: 12-20)

1. What was your life like before you knew Christ?
2. According to verse 15, why did Jesus come into the world? How does this make you feel?
3. How do you feel about talking about your past life when you share your faith?
4. Why is someone like a Paul such a good witness to unbelievers?
5. How can you incorporate Paul's story into your habit of witnessing?

Characteristics of Believers (1 Thessalonians)

1. In 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Paul speaks about three things in regard to the Christians in Thessalonica. What are those three things?
2. What do we learn about Paul's character from 1 Thess. 2:7 and what does this tell us about our approach to other believers?
3. Do these things still apply to us today and how can we implement them?

Second Coming of Christ (1 & 2 Thessalonians)

1. What are some of the indications that the *day of the Lord* is near?
2. How are we to conduct ourselves until Jesus comes again?

Leadership in the Church and for Each Believer (1 Timothy 3)

1. Although applied specifically to leaders here, why are these qualities important for all Christians?
2. Of these qualities, what are two or three you have made progress with in this past year?
3. In which area do you want to grow now? How can this group help you?

Love of Money (1 Timothy 6)

1. What is the "great gain" in "godliness with contentment" (v. 6)?
2. Why do you think we struggle with our finances?
3. Is there a difference between enjoying money and being a lover of money?

A Workman Approved by God (2 Timothy 2:14-26)

1. According to verses 15-16 and 22-24, what should you pursue and what should you flee?
2. How do you know if you are “quarreling about words” or standing up against false teachings? Which do most Christians spend more time doing?
3. What action steps can you take to produce the following in your life this week? Righteousness? Faith? Love? Peace?