

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What was new, interesting, convicting, difficult, etc. in the reading this week?

1. Sunday, Feb. 12; Intro to Acts 17:1-9 + 1 Thess. + 1Thess. 1:1-3; Faithful Work, Loving Labor, Hopeful Endurance.

Intro: Who wrote 1 Thessalonians and in what year was it written? Find Macedonia on a Bible map and the city of Thessalonica. What other important New Testament cities surround this area? Read Acts 17:1-9. To whom did Paul write this letter? What was the purpose of the letter? What are the themes of this book? **1Thess1:1-3:** What two gifts of God did Paul, Silas, and Timothy bestow upon the church at Thessalonica (1)? How do you or I need the fits of grace and peace right now? How does knowing that people are praying for you encourage you or me (2)? Do you have people in your life with whom you share prayer requests? Who would be encouraged to know that you pray for them? For what three things did Paul pray for these believers (3)? **Personal Application:** What does it mean to be about faithful work, loving labor and hopeful endurance? How does Jesus Christ encourage you in these areas?

2. Monday, Feb. 13; 1Thess. 1-4-10; YOU! A Model to All Believers. What did Paul realize about the Thessalonians to whom he was writing (4)? Why (5)? Is your spirit receiving the word of God and new understanding “with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction”? What other evidence did Paul have that the gospel had taken root in these new believers (6-7)? How is joy in suffering a gift of the Holy Spirit (6)? To whom do you or I model the Christian faith (7)? How were the Thessalonians different from the Galatians (8)? Why was Paul job easier with them? How had the Thessalonians changed (9-10)? **Personal Application:** In what ways do you model Christ to others? **OR** How have you experienced joy in suffering? **OR** In what ways is your life now completely different because you now know Jesus Christ?

3. Tuesday, Feb. 14; 1 Thess. 2:1-12; Characteristics of a Minister. Write down a bullet point list, verse by verse, of Characteristics of a Minister (ex: Gets results (1), endures suffering and outrageous treatment (2), etc.) Which characteristics do you see in those who minister to you? Which of these characteristics do you have as you minister to others? **Personal Application:** How is God using you to minister to others? **OR** Which bullet points do you want to incorporate into your own life in a more purposeful way? **OR** Write a thank you note to your minister.

4. Wednesday, Feb. 15; 1 Thess. 2:13-20; Paul’s Ultimate Goal—Your Salvation and Mine. Reflect upon and explain the power of the Word of God (13). What was the cost for believing/appropriating the Word of God (14)? How were the Jews trying to thwart Paul’s efforts (14b-16)? Why was Paul so long in returning to the Thessalonians (17-18)? How have you experienced the enemy trying to thwart your efforts? What was Paul’s ultimate life goal (19-20)? What can you or I learn from this goal/desire? **Personal Application:** Write about the power of the Word of God **OR** being thwarted by the enemy **OR** your ultimate goal in life.

5. Thursday Feb. 16; 1 Thess. 3:1-13; Destined for Trials/Encouraging Another. Why did Paul send Timothy to Thessalonica (1-2)? How do you or I need to be strengthened and encouraged today because of a trial we face? Who in your life strengthens you? Why are trials and persecutions to be expected in a believer’s life (3-4)? What was Paul’s concern and was it happening (5-6)? How did the Thessalonians encourage Paul in his own distress and persecution (7-9)? Make a list of the things Paul prayed for them (10-13). **Personal Application:** How may you and I accept and be strengthened by the trial or persecution we face today? **OR** How may we apply Paul’s prayer to ourselves (10-13)? Thank God for those who strengthen you in difficult times.

6. Friday, Feb. 17; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; The Call to Sanctification. What was Paul’s new concern for the Thessalonians (1-2,8)? What does it mean to be sanctified (3)? Is sanctification God’s will for all believers? What practices were the exact opposite of sanctification (3b, 5-7a)? Instead, how were they to behave (4, 7b)? Who would help them to live honorable lives (8)? **Personal Application:** How are you currently being sanctified by the Holy Spirit?

7. Saturday, Feb. 18; 1 Thess.4:9-12; Daily Life Instructions. Begin a **Daily Life Instructions** list toward the back of your journal which you may add to throughout the year. Write down Paul’s instructions point by point (v. 9-12) on your list. (Ex: Love one another [1Thess4:9], Lead a quiet life [1Thess4:11], etc.) **Personal Application:** How are you doing, by your own self-evaluation, in living out these particular instructions?

