

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find interesting, new, convicting, helpful, confusing, etc. in the readings?

**1.Sunday, Feb. 19; 1Thess. 4:13-18; Death/Rapture/Return of Christ.** Why did Paul want to speak to the Thessalonians (and us) about the death of a believer (13)? How do you and I experience the emotions of grief and/or hope at the death of a loved one? What did Paul believe would happen at Jesus' return (14)? How did Paul come to believe that the dead in Christ would rise first (see Bible notes on verse 15)? Why was this Good News for the Thessalonians? What things will happen at Christ's return according to verses 16-17? What does it mean to be "caught up in the air"? Read with notes about two others who were taken to heaven without physical death in Gen. 5:24 (+Heb. 11:5) and 2Kings 2:10-12. What does the word "rapture" mean? Is it found in scripture anywhere? **Personal Application:** How is this portion of scripture an encouragement to you?

**2.Monday, Feb. 20; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; The Day of the Lord.** Give your thoughts as to what the Day of the Lord is (1-2 and see also 1 Cor. 5:18, Joel 1:15, Amos 5:18, Rom. 2:5, 2 Pet. 2:9, and 2 Pet. 3:10-12). When will the Day of the Lord occur (2-3)? Is a time of peace and safety on earth a deterrent to the coming of the Day of the Lord? Why should the Day of the Lord be no surprise to believers (4-6)? How are believers to prepare for the Day of the Lord (6-8)? Why may believers relax in heart even though the Day of the Lord will come (9-11)? What are the two outcomes of the Day of the Lord (9)? How are you and I encouraging others to live "soberly: in faith, love, and hope? **Personal Application:** Write your thoughts on this portion of scripture.

**3.Tuesday, Feb. 21; 1 Thess. 5:12-15; Daily Life Instructions.** How do you or I acknowledge our pastors, missionaries, and confidants in the faith (12-13a)? How peaceful is your home and work life? If there is strife, how may we seek for greater peace (13b)? Who in your life or mine is idle or disruptive and what may you or I do to give them warning (14)? Who is disheartened and how may you or I encourage that person? Who is weak and how may your or I be of assistance? Who gets on your nerves or mine and how may we increase our patience with them? How has all retaliation been removed from your life or mine (15a)? How are you doing "good" for all people? **Personal Application:** Act on one of the above topics and add these instructions to your Daily Life Instructions List.

**4.Wednesday, Feb. 22; 1 Thess. 5:16-28; Inner Attitudes.** Make a list of these inner attitudes we are to have and then write the opposite of that attitude next to it. (Example: Rejoice always. [Don't complain!]; Pray continually. [Don't worry!]) Is it more convicting to understand the attitude we should have or to realize the attitude we DO have? Why? Which of these transforming inner attitudes would help you in your current situation? How will you incorporate this change in inner attitude beginning today? What does it mean to be sanctified by God Himself (23) and how do you see this happening in your life right now? How are you or I keeping our spirit, soul, and body blameless (24)? **Personal Application:** Write a prayer to God about the sanctification of your inner attitudes.

**5.Thursday, Feb. 23; Intro to 2 Thess. and 2 Thess. 1:1-5; Persevere in Trials.** **Intro:** Who wrote 2 Thessalonians and what did you learn? What is the purpose of this letter? What is a theme of this letter? **Verses 1:1-5:** What is the difference between the phrases "to the church IN God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1) and "grace and peace FROM God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (2)? Why was Paul thanking God (3)? What was especially amazing about their growth in faith and love (4)? What was the result of the Thessalonians staying faithful to God despite their circumstances (5)? **Personal Application:** How do you have "perseverance and faith in all the persecution and trials you are enduring"?

**6.Friday, Feb. 24; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; God is Just.** How is God just (6-7)? Share your thoughts about this with God or others. What punishment is due those who do not know God (8-9)? Share your thoughts about this with God or others. On His return how will He be glorified and who will marvel at Christ (10)? Like Paul, should you and I have the last days in mind now (11)? Why or why not? What did Paul desire for the Thessalonians and us (11)? Why (12)? **Personal Application:** Write about why "your deeds prompted by faith" are needed in terms of the repercussions of a just God.

**7.Saturday, Feb. 25; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; The Man of Lawlessness.** What was Paul's concern for the Thessalonians (1-2)? How were they being misled (2-3)? What had to happen before Jesus Christ was to return (3-4)? What characteristics does the "man of lawlessness" have (4, 9-12)? How are you and I prepared now to understand this upcoming time (5)? What is "holding back" this event from happening now (6-7 and Bible notes)? How powerful will the battle be between Truth and deception (9-12)? **Personal Application:** How are you and I prepared to stand for Truth? OR Thank the Lord that the man of lawlessness continues to be held back so others may come to know God's Truth. Let us be purposeful in love and Truth.

**Cindy Oury. February 17, 2017.**