

The Book of I Thessalonians

13

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we continue reading the book of **1 Thessalonians**, focusing on **chapters 4-5**. This second and last section of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian Christians can be divided into three subsections. Read each subsection, answering for yourself the questions associated with them. Type out your answers or jot them down on a piece of paper and file your answers with your morning study.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

- What did Paul urge the Thessalonians to do more and more? (**4:1**).
- What were the instructions that Paul had already given them? (**4:2-8**).
- What did Paul feel he did not need to write to them about? (**4:9-10**).
- What three things should the Thessalonians make it their ambition to do? (**4:11**). And why should they do this? (**4:12**).

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

- What did Paul not want the Thessalonians to be ignorant about? (**4:13**).
- What does Paul mean when he says that those who are alive "will certainly not precede" those who are dead? (**4:15-17**).
- What words were the Thessalonians to encourage one another with? (**4:18**) (note also **5:11**).
- What did the Thessalonians know very well? (**5:1-4**).
- Why did Paul believe that the return of the Lord Jesus would *not* surprise them as a thief? (**5:4-5**).
- In the light of Christ's return, what did Paul encourage them to do? (**5:6-8**).

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

- Who did Paul say the Thessalonians should respect? (**5:12-13**).
- Who did Paul tell them to warn? (**5:14**) (note also **4:11-12**).
- What was God's will for the Thessalonian Christians? (**5:16-18**).
- The One who had called the Thessalonians was faithful and he would do what? (**5:23-24**).

Memory Verse

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!