

New Testament Recovery Version

Study Guide

Book IX

THE EPISTLES OF PAUL

TO THE

1 THESSALONIANS - PHILEMON

Week 1 Day 1 1 Thes. 1:1-10

I. Key Verse:

1 Thes. 1:3 Remembering unceasingly your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Here faith indicates the nature and strength of the _____; love, the motivation for and characteristic of _____; and hope, the source of _____. These depict the _____ of the genuine Christian life, a life constructed with faith, love, and hope (see note 13¹ in 1 Cor. 13). Such a life originates not from the _____ of the believers' natural being but from the infusion of _____ God, in whom they believe, is.

It is a life of three dimensions in the light of the Lord's coming back, having _____ as the beginning, the foundation, _____ as the process, the construction, and _____ as the consummation, the completion. Faith is toward _____(v.8), love is toward the _____(3:12; 4:9-10);, and hope is in the _____ coming (2:19).
(See 1 Thes. 1:3 note 2, paragraph 1 and 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians Msg. 1-8.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 2 1 Thes. 2:1-20

I. Key Verse:

1 Thes. 2:7 But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How were the apostles entrusted with the gospel by God?
2. How was Paul like a nursing mother cherishing her own children?
3. How did Paul exhort the Thessalonians?

Answer:

1. See 1 Thes. 2:4 note 1.
2. See 1 Thes. 2:7 note 2, 8 note 1.
3. See 1 Thes. 2:11 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians Msg. 9-13.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 3 1 Thes. 3:1-4:12

I. Key Verse:

1 Thes. 4:3 For this is will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What was the reason apostle Paul wrote the book of 1 Thessalonians?
2. Why should we abstain from fornication?
3. What does the “vessel” refer to in “possess his own vessel”?

Answer:

1. See 1 Thes. 3:10 note 1.
2. See 1 Thes. 4:3 note 2.
3. See 1 Thes. 4:4 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians Msg. 14-15, 20-22.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 4 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11

I. Key Verse:

1 Thes. 5:8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and a helmet, the hope of salvation.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

For this we say to you by the _____ of the Lord, that we who are living, who are left remaining unto the _____ of the _____, shall by no means precede those who have _____; Because the Lord Himself, with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the _____ of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will _____ first. Then we who are living, who are left _____, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the _____ in the air; and thus we will be always with the Lord. Therefore _____ one another with these words. (*See 1 Thes. 4:15-18*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians Msg. 16-17.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 5 1 Thes. 5:12-28

I. Key Verse:

1 Thes. 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This word strongly indicates that man is of _____ parts: _____, soul, and body. The spirit as our inmost part is the inner organ, possessing God-_____, that we may contact God (John 4:24; Rom. 1:9). The soul is our very _____ (cf. Matt. 16:26; Luke 9:25), a medium between our spirit and our body, possessing _____-consciousness, that we may have our _____. The body as our external part is the outer organ, possessing _____-consciousness, that we may contact the material world. The body contains the soul, and the soul is the vessel that contains the spirit. In the _____, God as the Spirit dwells; in the _____, our self dwells; and in the _____, the physical senses dwell. (See 1 Thes. 5:23 note 5)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians Msg. 18-19, 23-24.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 6 2 Thes. 1:1-2:12

I. Key Verse:

2 Thes. 1:10 When He comes to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in all those who have believed in that day.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Lord is the Lord of _____ (1 Cor. 2:8); He was glorified in His _____ and _____ (John 17:1; Luke 24:26; Heb. 2:9). Now He is in us as the _____ of glory (Col. 1:27) to bring us into glory (Heb. 2:10). At His coming back, on the one hand He will come from the heavens with _____ (Rev. 10:1; Matt. 25:31), and on the other hand He will be glorified in His _____; that is, His glory will be _____ from within His members, causing their body of _____ to be transfigured into His _____, _____ it to the body of His glory (3:21). (See 2 Thes. 1:10 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Thessalonians Msg. 1-3.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

2 Thes. 2:13 But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Sanctification of the Spirit consists of _____ steps: (1) the Spirit's seeking us and convicting us at the time that He caused us to _____ and believe (1 Pet. 1:2; John 16:8); (2) His _____ us both positionally and dispositionally (Heb. 13:12; 1 Cor. 6:11) at the time we were saved; and (3) His _____ us dispositionally as we pursue the _____ in life (Rom. 6:19, 22). By these three steps of the Spirit's _____, God's salvation is applied to us that we may obtain and enjoy it fully. (See 2 Thes. 2:13 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Thessalonians Msg. 4-7.*

Note:

According to 1 Thessalonians 5:23, we are tripartite beings; that is, we have three parts: spirit, soul, and body.

Whenever we Christians come together in a church meeting, we need to function. We need to pray, praise, or give a word of testimony. This is to exercise our spirit and not allow it to remain dormant or in a deadened condition.

Our psychological heart has three main arteries. These arteries, which are also the three parts of the soul, are the mind, the will, and the emotion. It is important to know how in a practical way to have these arteries unclogged. For the unclogging of the arteries of our physical heart, doctors may prescribe medication. But in many cases surgery is required to remove the blockage. The way to unclog the three main arteries of our psychological heart is to make a thorough confession to the Lord. From experience I have learned that we need to stay with the Lord for a period of time to confess our defects, failures, defeats, mistakes, wrongdoings, and sins.

If we take the time necessary to unclog the three main arteries of our psychological heart, we shall have the sense that our entire being has become living. Our mind, will, and emotion will all be in a very healthy condition. All the "dirt" in these "ditches" will then be dug away.

To preserve our body is actually very difficult. It is much easier to preserve our spirit and our soul than to preserve our body. The most difficult thing for us to do in this defiling, contaminating world is to preserve our body. We need to be careful not to look at anything, listen to anything, or touch anything that will defile our body.

God desires to sanctify us wholly and to preserve our spirit, soul, and body complete. However, we need to cooperate with Him. The way to cooperate is to rejoice, pray unceasingly, give thanks to Him in everything, not quench the Spirit, and not despise prophesying in the church meetings. If we cooperate in this way, our spirit will be preserved from deadness, our soul will be preserved from pollution in mind, will, and emotion, and our body will be preserved from the defilement of this age. Then in a practical way we shall have a holy life for the church life. Paul's aim in writing 1 Thessalonians, a book for new believers, was that they would live such a sanctified and holy life for the church life. (*Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians, pp. 202, 205, 209, 211, 213-214*)

Week 2 Day 1 1 Tim. 1:1-4

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Greek word means *household law*, implying _____ (the base of this word is of the same origin as that for _____ in John 10:9, implying a distribution of the pasture to the flock). It denotes a household _____, a household administration, a household government, and, derivatively, a _____, a _____, or an _____ for administration (distribution); hence, it is also a household economy. God's economy in faith is His household economy, His household _____ (cf. note 10¹ in Eph. 1; Eph. 3:9), which is to dispense _____ in Christ into His _____ people that He may have a _____ to express Himself, which house is the _____ (3:15), the Body of Christ. (See 1 Tim. 1:4 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 1.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 2 1 Tim. 1:5-20

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 1:5 But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith;

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain what love is out of based on 1 Tim. 1:5.
2. What is the "healthy teaching"?
3. How does one war "the good warfare"?

Answer:

1. See 1 Tim. 1:5 note 3.
2. See 1 Tim. 1:10 note 1.
3. See 1 Tim. 1:18 note 3, 19 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 1-2.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 3 1 Tim. 2:1-15

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The object of the two Epistles to Timothy is to deal with the church's decline. In the first Epistle the decline crept in subtly through different _____ (1:3), and in the second it had developed openly and was worsening through _____ (2 Tim. 2:16-18). To deal with such a decline, the _____ must be maintained. The first Epistle emphasizes that God desires all His saved ones to have the full _____ of the truth and that the church is the _____ and _____ of the truth (3:15). The second Epistle stresses that the word of the truth should be _____ unfolded (2 Tim. 2:15) and that the ones who have deviated should _____ to the truth (2 Tim. 2:25).
(See 1 Tim. 2:4 note 2, paragraph 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 3-4.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 4 1 Tim. 3:1-13

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 3:13 For those who have ministered well obtain for themselves a good standing and much boldness in faith, which is in Christ Jesus.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Faithful is the word: If anyone aspires to the _____, he _____ a good work. The overseer then must be _____, the husband of one wife, temperate, of a sober mind, orderly, _____, apt to _____; Not an excessive drinker; not a striker, but gentle; not contentious; not fond of money; One who manages well his own _____, having his children in _____ with all _____ (But if one does not know how to manage his own house, how will he care for the _____ of God?); Not a new _____, lest being blinded with _____ he fall into the judgment suffered by the devil. *(See 1 Tim. 3:1-6)*

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 5.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 5 1 Tim. 3:14-4:5

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The _____ God, who lives in the church, must be _____ to the church rather than objective. The idol in the heathen temple is lifeless. The God who not only lives but also acts, moves, and works in His living temple, the church, is _____. Because He is living, the church too is _____ in Him, by Him, and with Him.

The truth here refers to the real things revealed in the New Testament concerning Christ and the _____ according to God's New Testament _____. The church is the supporting _____ and holding _____ of all these realities. (See 1 Tim. 3:15 note 3, note 5)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 6-7.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 6 1 Tim. 4:6-5:25

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 4:8 For bodily exercise is profitable for a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the present life and of that which is to come.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why do we firstly need to be “nourished with the words of the good teaching”?
2. What is to “exercise yourself unto godliness”?
3. What is the promise of exercising unto godliness?

Answer:

1. See 1 Tim. 4:6 note 2, note 4, note 5.
2. See 1 Tim. 4:7 note 4.
3. See 1 Tim. 4:8 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 8-10.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What are “healthy words” and “the teaching which is according to godliness”?
2. What is the end of those who intend to be rich?
3. What is “the eternal life” as mentioned in 1 Tim. 6:12?

Answer:

1. See 1 Tim. 6:3 note 2, note 3.
2. See 1 Tim. 6:9 note 1, note 2, note 3, note 4.
3. See 1 Tim. 6:12 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Timothy Msg. 11-12.*

Note:

God’s dispensation is His household economy. According to the Bible, God does not first want to have a kingdom. Rather, He first wants a house, a family. Once He has a family, His family will spontaneously become His kingdom. If He is not able to secure a family, a household, a house, He will not be able to have a kingdom. Thus, God’s dispensation is first a matter of His household economy, or family economy.

God’s dispensation is His household administration to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen people that He might have a house, a household, the church, the Body of Christ, to express Himself. (*Life-Study of 1 Timothy*, pp. 11-12)

According to ancient usage, *oikonomia* denoted a stewardship, a dispensation, or an administration. At the time of Paul, many rich families had stewards whose responsibility was to distribute food and other necessities to members of the household. Our Father has a great family, a divine household. Because our Father has such vast riches, there is the need in His household for many stewards to dispense these riches to His children. This dispensing is the stewardship. Hence, a stewardship is a dispensation. The word “dispensation” here does not denote an age or means by which God deals with people; it refers to God’s dispensing of His riches into His chosen ones. This dispensation is the stewardship with the dispensing ministry of the ministers of God. This ministry of dispensing is also God’s administration. Today God administers by dispensing Himself into us. This stewardship, this dispensation, this administration, is God’s economy. In the New Testament economy of God there is the desperate need for the stewardship of grace.

Our concept of preaching the gospel needs to be uplifted. We should not be concerned merely with winning souls. Rather, we should preach the gospel to carry out God’s economy by dispensing God into others. Go to school or to work for the purpose of carrying out your stewardship according to God’s economy for His dispensation. We are not doing an ordinary work of gospel preaching. We are dispensing God into man. What a glorious ministry! What a wonderful stewardship! Praise the Lord that we all have such a stewardship! We have the privilege of dispensing the unsearchable riches of Christ into others. (*Life-Study of Ephesians*, pp. 241-242, 246)

Week 3 Day 1 2 Tim. 1:1-18

I. Key Verse:

2 Tim. 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why did Paul remind Tim “to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you”.
2. What is the spirit “of power and of love and of sobermindedness”?
3. How do we uphold “a pattern of the healthy words”?

Answer:

1. See 2 Tim. 1:6 note 1.
2. See 2 Tim. 1:7 note 2.
3. See 2 Tim. 1:13 note 1, 1 Tim. 6:3 note 2, 1:14 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Timothy Msg. 1-2.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 2 2 Tim. 2:1-3:13

I. Key Verse:

2 Tim. 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What are the firm foundation of God and the seal upon it.
2. What is a vessel unto honor?
3. Why did Paul say “that in the last days difficult times will come”?

Answer:

1. See 2 Tim. 2:19 note 1, note 2.
2. See 2 Tim. 2:20 note 3, 21 note 3.
3. See 2 Tim 3:1 note 2, note 3, 2 Tim 3:2 note 1, note2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Timothy Msg. 3-5.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 3 2 Tim. 3:14-4:22

I. Key Verses:

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Tim. 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This indicates that the Scripture, the word of God, is the _____ out of God. God's _____ is God's breathing out. Hence, His word is spirit, or _____. Thus, the Scripture is the _____ of God as the Spirit. The Spirit is therefore the very essence, the substance, of the Scripture, just as phosphorus is the essential substance in matches. We must strike the Spirit of the Scripture with our _____ to catch the divine _____.

As the embodiment of God the Spirit, the Scripture (God's word) is also the embodiment of Christ. _____ is God's living Word, and the _____ is God's written word. (See 2 Tim. 3:16 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Timothy Msg. 6-8.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 4 Titus 1:1-16

I. Key Verse:

Titus 1:9 Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain how Paul was an apostle according to four things.
2. What is the spiritual significance of Paul charging Titus to appoint elders in every city?
3. Please explain the importance of the teaching of the apostles.

Answer:

1. See Titus 1:1 note 1.
2. See Titus 1:5 note 1.
3. See Titus 1:9 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Titus Msg. 1-2.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 5 Titus 2:1-15

I. Key Verse:

Titus 2:13 Awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In Titus 2:13 the _____ hope is the _____ of Christ in His glory. The appearing of Christ will bring us into full _____, i.e., the _____ of our _____, that we may enjoy the _____ of the glory of the children of God, for which we were saved (Rom. 8:21-25). This is the _____ of eternal life (1:2), a _____ of eternal blessing, a blessed hope in the eternal life of the Triune God, based on which Paul became an apostle. (*See Titus 2:13 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Titus Msg. 3-4.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 6 Titus 3:1-15

I. Key Verse:

Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The washing of regeneration begins with our being _____ and continues with the _____ of the Holy Spirit as the process of God's _____, a process that makes us a _____. It is a kind of reconditioning, remaking, or remodeling, with _____. Baptism, the putting off of the _____, the putting on of the _____, and transformation by the _____ of the mind are all related to this wonderful process. The _____ of regeneration purges away all the things of the old nature of our old man, and the _____ of the Holy Spirit imparts something new — the divine essence of the new man — into our being. In this is a passing from our old state into a wholly new one, from the old creation into the status of a _____. (*See Titus 3:5 note 4*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Titus Msg. 5-6.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 7 Philemon 1-25

THE SCRIPTURE

I. Key Verse:

Philem. 20 Yes, brother, may I have profit from you in the Lord; refresh my inward parts in Christ.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This short Epistle serves the special purpose of showing us the _____, in God's eternal life and divine love, of all the _____ in the Body of Christ. In the semisavage age of Paul, the life of Christ had annulled, among the believers, the strong _____ of _____. Since the sentiment of the _____ of the Christian fellowship was so powerful and prevailing that the evil social _____ among fallen mankind was spontaneously ignored, any need for institutional _____ was obviated. Because of the divine _____ and because they were living by the divine _____, all the believers in Christ had equal _____ in the church. (*See Philemon. 16 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philem. Msg. 1-2*

Note:

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."... The expression "God-breathed" indicates that the Scripture, the Word of God, is the breath of God. God's speaking is God's breathing. Hence, His word is spirit (John 6:63), pneuma, or breath. Thus, the Scripture is the embodiment of God as the Spirit. The Spirit is therefore the very essence, the substance, of the Scripture, just as phosphorus is the essential substance in matches. We must "strike" the Spirit of the Scripture with our spirit to kindle the divine fire.

As the embodiment of God the Spirit, the Scripture is also the embodiment of Christ. Christ is God's living Word (Rev. 19:13), and the Scripture is God's written word (Matt. 4:4).

We need to know the Bible not merely according to letters in black and white, but also according to the divine revelation and heavenly wisdom... As human beings we have a physical body outwardly, but inwardly we have a spirit and a soul. Our person is composed not mainly of the outward part, the body, but of the inward parts, the spirit and the soul. The principle is the same with the Bible. The Bible has not only a "body" of letters in black and white; it also has a spirit, because it is God-breathed.

We thank the Lord for showing us that in reading the Word we need to exercise our eyes, our mind, and our spirit. We may say that with the eyes we contact the body of the Word, that with our mind we contact the soul of the Word, and through the exercise of our spirit to pray the Word, we contact the spirit of the Word. Then we not only understand the meaning of a certain portion of Scripture; we also inhale the divine breath to receive the life supply.

In Colossians 3:16 Paul says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God." By praying, psalming, and singing the Word we shall fan our spirit into flame. Furthermore, when we pray, psalm, and sing the Word, we inhale the divine breath and receive more of the element of God. In this way God dispenses Himself into us and infuses us with His element. (*Life-Study of 2 Timothy, pp. 51-54*)