

Sunday School Live Lesson

June 23, 2024

Visible to God

1 Thessalonians 1

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Questions for Us Today

June 23, 2024

2 Since God sees all that we say and do, are you living your life in a way that is pleasing to Him?

Have you helped someone who is new in their faith? Has someone done that for you?

Sunday School Lesson

Objectives

June 23, 2024

To understand the interactions of the Apostle Paul with the faithful in Thessalonica.

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To draw on this experience for application to our own lives.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

June 23, 2024

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Paul (ministry),
Thessalonica

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

June 23, 2024

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Paul’s Ministry

Wide-ranging – The Apostle Paul’s ministry covered a lot of geographic territory. He made at least three prominent missionary journeys. Paul ministered during his travels and even while he was in prison.

Portable – As a tentmaker, Paul had a ministry that he could carry with him, since he could readily find employment during his travels.

Points of Information – Paul’s Ministry

Unbiased – Paul shared God’s Holy Word and directives with all those who would listen – Gentiles as well as Jews.

Gospel-based – Paul steadily preached the Good News about Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

Points of Information – Paul’s Ministry

Personal – Paul used examples from his own life to illustrate the love and power of God. His humility was in evidence, or else he would not have exposed his own shortcomings.

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Uplifting – Paul encouraged many churches and individuals with his preaching and teaching.

Verbal and Written – Guided by the Holy Spirit, Paul preached powerful sermons and wrote loving, enriching and edifying letters.

Points of Information – Thessalonica

The ancient city of Thessalonica was located in Greece, with a fine harbor along the coast of the Aegean Sea.

The main road from Rome to the Orient, the Egnatian Way, went right through this city.

At one point, Thessalonica was the capital of the province of Macedonia. It had a large population estimated at 200,000 people.

The city still exists today, with a population of around 300,000, and is known as Thessaloniki (or Salonica).

Points of Information – Thessalonica

Paul, Silas (a/k/a Silvanus) and Timothy ministered to the people in Thessalonica. Paul established a church there during his second missionary journey. Acts 17 describes their experiences.

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The Apostle wrote this letter, from Corinth, to answer questions and address misconceptions the Thessalonians had and to explain Christian living.

A number of Jews in Thessalonica were outraged by the preaching and messages of the Apostle Paul. So, he and Silas were forced to get out of this city, just as they previously had to leave Philippi.

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Lesson Context - 1

During his second missionary journey, along with his colleagues in the ministry (Silas and Timothy), the Apostle Paul established a church in the large city of Thessalonica.

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Lesson Context - 2

Due to hostile actions from Jews (and some Gentiles) in Thessalonica, Paul and his colleagues had to flee the city. Paul ultimately was in Corinth.

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The Apostle Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to assess the status of the church there.

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Lesson Context - 3

Timothy came to Corinth with a very favorable report regarding the Christian church in Thessalonica. However, the people there had questions and misconceptions about the faith.

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The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to address these matters.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 [NLT]

This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

1 Thessalonians 1:3

As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:4

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be His own people.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.

1 Thessalonians 1:6

So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:7

As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece – throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 1:8

And now the Word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it,

1 Thessalonians 1:9

for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the Living and True God.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from Heaven – Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

Remember these things:

Let us remember that the Lord is omnipotent (all powerful) omnipresent (He's always here) and omniscient (all seeing and all knowing). We are visible to God.

Let us live our lives with these things in mind.

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Next Sunday School Live Lesson

June 30, 2024

Remembering Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 2:8-15

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