

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Thessalonians Bible Study — I Thessalonians 2:3-13

Lesson #3

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in First Thessalonians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

3-4 For our exhortation did NOT come by deceit or uncleanness, nor was it in guile. But as WE have been APPROVED by GOD to be entrusted with the GOSPEL, even so we speak, NOT as PLEASING MEN, but God who tests out hearts.

•II Corinthians 7:2 “Open your hearts to us. We have _____ one, we have _____ one, we have _____ one.”

Definition: “Our EXHORTATION did NOT come by DECEIT or uncleanness nor was it in GUILÉ” – EXHORTATION means preaching, DECEIT means trickery or lies, GUILÉ means lying, falsehood. Paul is saying that he did NOT use any tricks, scams or anything untruthful in his preaching of the gospel. Paul says that he is just preaching the truth of God, and not like some false teachers who use their ability to amass followers to CONTROL them and even promote sexual immorality (what Paul is referring to by the word “uncleanness”). These false teachers and their followers claim they have LIBERTY and freedom to do these things, and this MISUSE of this freedom is a cover-up or “cloak” for their sin.

•I Peter 2:15-16 “For this is the will of God, that by doing _____ you may put to silence the ignorance of _____ men. As _____, yet _____ using your _____ as a _____ for _____, but as servants of God.”

Definition: “WE have been APPROVED by GOD to be entrusted with the GOSPEL” – Paul had God’s approval and he was specially appointed by Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus to PREACH the GOSPEL and to be a MINISTER of Jesus Christ. “Minister” means servant. “Stewardship” means taking care of or managing someone else’s business or property. God has made Paul, and ALL of us, ministers, servants and stewards of His precious gospel, and workers in His kingdom. The gospel and the kingdom do not belong to us, but come from God, and He expects us to be STEWARDS and TAKE CARE of His BUSINESS here on EARTH.

•Ephesians 3:7 “Of which I became a _____ according to the _____ of the _____ of _____ given to me by the effective working of His power.”

•Romans 15:15-16 “Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace _____ to _____ by _____, That I might be a _____ of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, _____ the _____ of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified (made holy) by the _____ Spirit.”

•I Timothy 1:12 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has _____ me, because He _____ me _____, putting me into the _____.”

•Colossians 1:25 “Of which I _____ a _____ according to the _____ from _____ which was _____ to _____ for _____, to fulfill the _____ of _____.”

5-6 For neither at any time did we use FLATTERING WORDS, as you know, nor a CLOAK for covetousness – God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from MEN, either from you or from others, when we might have made DEMANDS as APOSTLES of Christ.

• **Jude 16** “These are murmurers, complainers, walking _____ to their own _____; and they mouth great swelling _____, _____ to gain _____.”

Definition: “Use **FLATTERING WORDS**, as you know, nor a **CLOAK** for **COVETOUSNESS**” – Paul is **CONTRASTING** himself with the **FALSE** teachers who **ALWAYS** use **FLATTERING WORDS**, and their **ulterior motive is COVETOUSNESS**. There were many heresies and false teachings in Paul’s day, and if you look at **the modern-day cults and false religions**, you also see the same things. Covetousness means **GREED** and wanting money and power. **The leaders of false cults use flattering words to lure gullible people into their cults** so that they will have **POWER** over them, and they usually make their new converts give all their money to the cult.

• **II Timothy 4:2-4** “Preach the _____! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and _____. For the time will come when they will _____ endure _____ doctrine, but according to their own _____, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves _____; and they will _____ their _____ from the _____, and be turned aside to _____.”

• **II Peter 2:3** “By _____ they will _____ you with deceptive _____; for a long time their _____ has _____ been _____, and their _____ does not slumber.”

• **Jude 4** “For certain men have _____ in _____, who long ago were marked out for this _____, _____ men, who turn the _____ of our God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

• **Ephesians 5:3** “But _____ and all _____ or _____, let it not even be _____ among you, as is fitting for _____; “

Definition: “As **FREE**, yet **NOT** using your **LIBERTY** as a cloak for **VICE**” – Peter continues his exhortation to the Believers in how they should conduct their lives as children of God and members of Christ’s church. **We have FREEDOM in Christ**, but we are not supposed to use that freedom for selfish reasons or to conduct our lives in a sinful manner. Paul says the same thing in Galatians when he says, “**Do not use liberty** (your **FREEDOM**) as an opportunity for the flesh (to **SIN**), but **through LOVE serve one another**.” Because we are under grace and not under the law, it does not mean we can live our lives any way we please, disregarding God’s moral laws. The Apostle Paul dealt with the same question when he asked, “What shall we say then? Shall we **continue in sin** that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who **died** to sin **live any longer** in it?” (Romans 6:1-2) and “What then? Shall we sin because **we are not under law, but under grace**? Certainly not!” (Romans 6:15).

• **Galatians 5:13** “For you, brethren, have been called to _____; only do _____ use _____ as an _____ for the _____ (to **SIN**), but through _____ one another.”

Definition: “By **COVETOUSNESS** they will **EXPLOIT** you” – **Covetousness** means **GREED** or **avarice**; the wanting of something very badly. To **EXPLOIT** means “to make unethical use of for ones own advantage or profit.” The false teachers covet and want desperately to have power, prestige, money and control of other people, that comes from devoted followers. In many cults, some of the followers even sell their houses and give up their bank accounts to the cult’s leader. This is what Paul meant by saying, “**When we might have made DEMANDS as APOSTLES of Christ**.” Paul did **NOT** use his authority as an **APOSTLE** of Christ to “fleece the flock” and get rich at their expense. In

fact, Paul did just the opposite and was **“laboring night and day, that he might no be a burden to any of them”** by “taking a side job” as we say today, and he worked as a tent maker to support himself. As an apostle, he could have DEMANDED that the church support him, but he did not do that.

• **I Timothy 6:3-5** “If anyone _____ otherwise and does _____ consent to _____ words, even the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is _____, knowing nothing, but is _____ with disputes and _____ over words, from which come _____, strife, reviling, _____ suspicions, useless wranglings of men of _____ minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose the godliness is a means of _____ (profit). From such _____ yourself.”

Definition: “Their JUDGMENT has NOT been IDLE” – God has promised that **He will judge and punish these false prophets, and He has not been idle in His judgment.** Our method of keeping track of time is not the same as God’s, and **He will judge the evil in the world at the End of the Age**, after Jesus returns to this earth to set up His kingdom. These false teachers, if they do not repent, will spend all of eternity in hell. We must just be patient and wait for God to judge them, and in the meantime, be alert and aware, and avoid them. We can also try to witness to some of their followers to get them out of the cults they are trapped in.

• **Jude 12-13** “These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, _____ only _____; they are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without _____, twice _____, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own _____; wandering stars for _____ is _____ the _____ of _____ forever.”

7-9 But we were GENTLE among you, just as a nursing MOTHER cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the GOSPEL of GOD, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, **our labor and toil; for LABORING night and day, that we might NOT be a BURDEN to any of you**, we preached to you the gospel of God.

• **Read II Thessalonians 3:7-12** “For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not _____ among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread _____ of charge, but _____ with _____ and toil night and day, that we might not be a _____ to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an _____ of how you should follow us. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone _____ not _____, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a _____ manner, not _____ at all, but are _____. Now those who are such We command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they _____ in quietness and _____ their _____ bread.”

Definition: – “LABORING night and day, that we might NOT be a BURDEN to any of you” – Paul worked hard, LABORING as a tentmaker to support himself and those who were traveling with him on his missionary journey. Paul does say we need to help support the weak, but the word of God always says that able-bodied people need to work.

• **Ephesians 4:28** “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him _____, _____ with his _____ what is _____, that he may have something to _____ him who is in _____.”

• **Acts 18:3** “So because he (Paul) was of the same _____, he stayed with them

and _____; for by _____ they were _____.”

• **Acts 20:33-35** “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these _____ have _____ for my _____, and for those who were with me. I have shown in every way, by _____ like this, that you must _____ the _____. And remember the _____ of the Lord _____, that He said, ‘It is more _____ to _____ than to _____.’”

10-12 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, **that you would have a WALK WORTHY of GOD who CALLS** you into His own kingdom and glory.

• **Colossians 1:9-10** “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to _____ for _____, and to _____ that you may be _____ with the _____ of His _____ in all _____ and spiritual _____ that you may have a _____ of the _____, fully _____ Him, being _____ in every good _____ and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

• **Ephesians 4:1-2** “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, _____ you to have a _____ of the _____ with which you were _____, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in _____,”

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, **you welcomed it NOT as the word of MEN, but as it is in TRUTH, the WORD of GOD**, which also effectively works in you who believe.

• **Mark 4:20** “But these are the ones _____ on _____ ground, those who hear the _____, _____ it, and bear _____: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

Definition: – “You welcomed it NOT as the word of MEN, but as it is in TRUTH, the WORD of GOD”

– Paul says the Thessalonians received the gospel as it should be received - as **the very WORD of GOD**. Jesus, in the parable of the sower, said that **those whose HEARTS are GOOD GROUND** are the ones who RECEIVE God’s word and grow in their FAITH and bear FRUIT for God.

• **Acts 17:11** “These were more _____ than those in Thessalonica, in that they _____ the _____ with all _____, and _____ the _____ daily to _____ whether these things were so.”

• **Hebrews 13:9** “Do _____ be _____ by varied and _____ teachings; for it is _____ for the _____ to be _____ with [God’s] _____.”

• **Proverbs 4:4, 20-21 & 23** “He also taught me and said to me, ‘Let your _____ retain My _____.’” (Verses 20-21) “My son, give attention to My _____;....do _____ let them _____ from your eyes; _____ them in the _____ of your _____.” (Verse 23) “Keep (guard, watch over) your _____ with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of _____.”

• **Psalms 119:11** “Your _____ have I hidden in my _____ that I might _____ against You.”