

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
 2 To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
 3 and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
 4 Grace to you and peace.  
 5 <sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for all of you,  
 6 constantly mentioning you in our prayers,  
 7 <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of  
 8 faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our  
 9 Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers loved by  
 10 God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came  
 11 to you not only in word, but also in power and in the  
 12 Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what  
 13 kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.  
 14 <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for  
 15 you received the word in much affliction, with the joy  
 16 of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to  
 17 all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For not  
 18 only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you  
 19 in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has  
 20 gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say  
 21 anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves report concerning us the  
 22 kind of reception we had among you, and how you  
 23 turned to God from idols to serve the living and true  
 24 God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he  
 25 raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the  
 26 wrath to come.

**Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if–then) statements?
- Other observations?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What parts challenge your previous thinking?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What parts of this passage fit your current life situation?
- What parts seem unrelated to your circumstances?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- How does Paul describe his prayers for these people? What would your prayers look like based on that model?
- In verse 4 Paul affirms that “we know...God has chosen you.” How would that be different to the people than “we know you have believed”? How might the idea that God has chosen the other believers around you affect your thinking about them?
- What is the evidence that enabled Paul’s confidence in the genuineness of their faith?
- What is the process of imitation and example that Paul describes? How could that affect your understanding of Jesus’ command to “make disciples”? Who are you imitating? Who are you an example to?
- What were other people seeing in the lives of the Thessalonians and reporting back to Paul (v.9-10)? What things in your life might attract that kind of notice?

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you *interpret* the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you *observe* about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What *application* does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**