

1 Thessalonians 1:6 – 2:6

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you
2 received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the
3 Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the
4 believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has
5 the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia
6 and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth
7 everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they
8 themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we
9 had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to
10 serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son
11 from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who
12 delivers us from the wrath to come.

13 ² For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to
14 you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered
15 and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we
16 had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of
17 God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not
18 spring from error or impurity or any attempt to
19 deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be
20 entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man,
21 but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For we never came
22 with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for
23 greed—God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from
24 people, whether from you or from others, though we could
25 have made demands as apostles of Christ.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back page.

- List the specific reports coming back to Paul & company from others in the region:
- List the methods and motives that Paul denies using:
- What motives does Paul claim?
- What other observations do you make?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- How do you think their turning, serving, and waiting (v. 9-10) might be related? How are they connected to each other?
- Why do you think Paul was so emphatic about clarifying his motives and behavior?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What might “turning, serving, waiting” look like in your life?
- What motives in you might be harming relationships? Which motives might need to be clarified or refined?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

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?
- 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?

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)**