
INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

DEDUCTIVE LESSON FIVE

1 Thessalonians 5

Day One: Verses 1–4

Read through all of 1 Thessalonians 5. Then reread verses 1–4 and answer the following questions.

1. These verses describe the day of the Lord. This phrase is used to describe the day in which God will judge and destroy the wicked and unrepentant of the earth. It also applies to the seven years of tribulation leading up to this judgment. What metaphors are used to describe the day of the Lord, in verses 2 and 3?

2. What does verse 4 say?

3. How do these Old Testament verses describe the day of the Lord?

Jeremiah 46:10

Isaiah 2:12, 17

Ezekiel 30:2-3

Joel 2:1-11

4. Peter also describes the day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night. What does Peter add about the day of the Lord, in 2 Peter 3:10?

5. And what should be our response to all of these things (2 Peter 3:11-14)?

6. If you keep reading in 2 Peter 3, you find that Peter mentions the epistles of Paul. What does he say about Paul and his letters in verses 16?

Scripture Memory: God's instruction to us this week is short and sweet. Though easy to say, it is not as easy to put into practice. It is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Day Two: Verses 5–7

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:5–7.

1. What does verse 5 say that we are, as Christians?

2. What instruction do the writers of this epistle give to the Thessalonians in verse 6?

3. What happens at night, according to verse 7?

4. What do the following verses say about light and/or darkness?

John 8:12

John 12:35–36

Ephesians 5:8

5. What roles did light and darkness play in Paul's own conversion, recorded in Acts 9:3–18. Also, read Acts 26:12–18 and notice how light and darkness are mentioned in Jesus' commission to Paul.

Scripture Memory: Fill in the blanks from memory.

“Rejoice always, _____ without ceasing.” __ Thessalonians __:16–17

Day Three: Verses 8–10

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8–10.

1. What should we, who are of the day, put on (verse 8)?

2. To what has God appointed us (verse 9)?

3. Regardless of whether we are raptured up to be with the Lord, or if we die before His return, what is the end result (verse 10)?

4. In Ephesians 6:10–18, we find a more detailed inventory of the armor of God. Read through that passage and answer the following questions:

The Belt of Truth – Why is truth described as a belt? What is the purpose of a belt? Who do you know to be the Truth? What would happen to a warrior who couldn’t depend on his belt?

The Breastplate of Righteousness – How is righteousness like a breastplate? What does a breastplate protect? Would a breastplate cover your back if you wanted to retreat?

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace – Shoes allow you to be ready. They keep your feet sure and help you to stand. They also allow you to move about freely and effectively. Why would the gospel of peace be compared to a pair of shoes?

The Shield of Faith – What is the purpose of a shield? Is it something you wear, or something you use? When is a shield most useful? What kinds of fiery darts do the wicked use against us?

The Helmet of Salvation – A helmet protects a warrior’s head, which not only houses the reasoning and decision-making abilities, but four of the five senses, as well. The way we perceive things, the decisions we make, our thoughts and our actions, all proceed from the head. What does all of this have to do with our salvation?

The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God – All of the other armor is protective, for defense. The sword is a weapon. How is it to be used? What are the qualities of a sword? Are there any other weapons in the Christian’s arsenal?

5. In Ephesians, the breastplate is righteousness. Here in Thessalonians, the breastplate is faith and love. Do you think this is an equal substitute? Why or why not?

Scripture Memory: Fill in the blanks from memory.

“Rejoice _____, _____ without _____.” _____:16–17

3. Now, rank these instructions from 1 to 15.

1 = the thing in this list that I am best at doing.

15 = the thing in this list that I am worst at doing.

- _____ Comfort and edify each other.
- _____ Recognize those who labor among you and are over you / Esteem them very highly in love.
- _____ Be at peace among yourselves.
- _____ Warn those who are unruly.
- _____ Comfort the fainthearted. / Uphold the weak.
- _____ Be patient with all.
- _____ Do not render evil for evil.
- _____ Pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
- _____ Rejoice always.
- _____ Pray without ceasing.
- _____ In everything give thanks.
- _____ Do not quench the Spirit.
- _____ Do not despise prophecies.
- _____ Test all things / Hold fast to what is good.
- _____ Abstain from every form of evil.

4. What will you do to make numbers 13, 14, and 15 become numbers 1, 2, and 3 over the next year?

If necessary, spend the next 15 minutes working on memorizing these verses.

Day Five: Verses 23–28

Read all of 1 Thessalonians 5.

1. What blessings to Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy give to the Thessalonian church in verse 23?

2. What is "it" in verse 24?

3. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy were humble enough to ask for prayer from their brothers in Thessalonica (see verse 25). Do you ask your brethren to pray for you? Write down a prayer request that you can share at your next group meeting.

4. What final instructions and closing are found in verses 26–28?

5. "He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). What do the following verses have to say about the faithfulness of God?

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalms 36:5

Isaiah 25:1

Romans 3:3–4

2 Timothy 2:13

Scripture Memory: Write this week's Scripture Memory verse completely from memory.

" _____
_____ " _____ : _____ - _____

Day Six: Personal Application

1. When we contemplate the day of the Lord, our response should be twofold: We should eagerly anticipate that day when injustice will cease and we will be joined with our Lord. We should praise God that His wrath is righteous, deliberate, and true—never tainted with human anger.

We should also be concerned for those whom we love, who are still at enmity with Jesus. We should be driven to prayer—that they would accept God's salvation, cling to His mercy, and escape the wrath of His judgment.

Spend a few moments in prayer, as you contemplate the day of the Lord. Feel free to write any notes below.

2. As a Christian, you are a "son of the light," according to 1 Thessalonians 5:5. But "what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV)" Is there anything dark in your life? Something that hinders, discolors, or shades the light that you receive from the Source? Or the light that you reflect to others? Ask the Holy Spirit to search you and to convict you of any such thing, that you can disengage yourself from it.

3. Review the pieces of the armor of God, which you studied on Day Three. What piece of your spiritual armor needs the most polishing? How will you give that piece of armor your attention?

4. Take some time to pray for some of the men in your group, by name.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

5. Remember that "He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)" Reflect on God's faithfulness in your own life. What comes to mind as you meditate on this topic?

Scripture Memory: Combine the memory verses you have learned thus far.

" _____

_____." _____ : _____ - _____

