

# “Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

## First Thessalonians Bible Study — I Thessalonians 1:1-5 Lesson #1

\*\*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.

1-2 **Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy**, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, **making MENTION of YOU in our PRAYERS.**

●**Colossians 1:1-2** “\_\_\_\_\_, an \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ by the will of God, \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_. To the \_\_\_\_\_ and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to you from \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.”

**Definition: “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy”** – Silvanus was the Latin version of the name Silas. Silas was one of the disciples who traveled with Paul, along with Timothy and others. Paul includes them as his companions **in writing to “the church of the Thessalonians”** which means those Believers in the city of Thessalonika, in Macedonia.

●**II Corinthians 1:19** “For the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, who was \_\_\_\_\_ among you by us – by me, \_\_\_\_\_, and Timothy – was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.”

●**II Thessalonians 1:1** “Paul, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.”

●**I Peter 5:12** “By \_\_\_\_\_ our faithful \_\_\_\_\_ as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in which you stand.”

**Definition: “Making MENTION of YOU in our PRAYERS”** – Paul probably didn’t remember every single church member’s name to pray for them, but he could lift up the entire church in prayer, and maybe mention by name a few of the leaders and people he knew personally.

●**Ephesians 1:15-16** “Wherefore, I also, after I \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus, and \_\_\_\_\_ for all the \_\_\_\_\_, do \_\_\_\_\_ cease to give thanks for you, making \_\_\_\_\_ of you \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_.”

●**Ephesians 6:18** “Praying \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.”

3-4 Remembering without ceasing your **WORK of FAITH, LABOR of LOVE, and PATIENCE of HOPE** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, **knowing, BELOVED brethren, your ELECTION by GOD.**

●**II Peter 1:10** “Therefore, brethren, be even more \_\_\_\_\_ to make your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sure for if you do these things you will \_\_\_\_\_ stumble.”

●**Philippians 2:12-13** “Therefore, my \_\_\_\_\_, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, \_\_\_\_\_ out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ in you both to will and to \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ good pleasure.”

●**James 2:15-17** “If a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ is naked and destitute

of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do \_\_\_\_\_ them the things which are \_\_\_\_\_ for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by \_\_\_\_\_, if it does \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_, is dead."

**Definition: "If a BROTHER or SISTER is NAKED and destitute of daily FOOD"** – "Destitute of daily food" means not having enough to eat. "Brother or sister" means our brothers and sisters in Christ - other Christians. Jesus said in Matthew 25:34-40 that **if we feed and clothe our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are doing it to JESUS HIMSELF.**

•**Matthew 25:34-40** "Then the King (Jesus) will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you \_\_\_\_\_ of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was \_\_\_\_\_ and you gave Me \_\_\_\_\_; I was thirsty and you gave Me \_\_\_\_\_; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was \_\_\_\_\_ and you \_\_\_\_\_ me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in \_\_\_\_\_ and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of these My \_\_\_\_\_, you did it to \_\_\_\_\_.'"

**Definition: "WORK of FAITH, LABOR of LOVE, and PATIENCE of HOPE"** – Philippians 2:12-13 says we are to WORK OUT our SALVATION, and it also says that **GOD is the ONE who is WORKING IN US** to bring this about. To "work out" our faith means we DO THINGS that people can SEE, as we do the GOOD WORKS that God wants us to do, especially in helping others in their need.

•**James 2:14** "What does it profit, my \_\_\_\_\_, if someone \_\_\_\_\_ he has \_\_\_\_\_ but does \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_? Can faith save him?"

•**Romans 4:1-11** "What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by \_\_\_\_\_, he has something of which to boast, but \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now to him who \_\_\_\_\_, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does \_\_\_\_\_ work but \_\_\_\_\_ on Him who justifies the ungodly, his \_\_\_\_\_ is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes \_\_\_\_\_ apart from \_\_\_\_\_: 'Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.'

**Definition: "Has FAITH but does not have WORKS? Can FAITH save him?"** – Another way to say this would be, "Can **this KIND of FAITH** save him?" True saving faith will ALWAYS have "works" or "fruit" (corresponding actions) to go along with it. As Christians, **our words must be matched by our deeds.** The Bible tells us over and over again that **we are SAVED by GRACE through FAITH, as a FREE GIFT from God, and NOT by the WORKS of the law.** However, "works" in the context of James 2:14-26 means **EVIDENCE that your faith in Christ is REAL. TRUE FAITH will always have corresponding action.** In James 2:14-26, there is a warning to beware of those who are just "full of hot air" and show no real change in their lives or have anything to show for their supposed faith in Christ. A person who has asked God to take control of their life and Jesus to come into their heart SHOULD start acting like Jesus, even if only in small ways at first. A new Believer, of course, wouldn't have as many "works" as someone who has been saved a long time, but **they should have some EVIDENCE**

or **PROOF** in their life that indicate their faith is **REAL**. A hunger for God's word, a desire to please Him and obey Him whenever they find out something in their life is not right, a desire to fellowship with God's people, and a concern that friends and family members come to know Christ - all of these things are **just a few of the evidences** that a person should have if their faith is real. **Some other Scriptures call it FRUIT** (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23) rather than **WORKS**, but in this context they mean the same thing.

• **John 15:8** "By this is My \_\_\_\_\_ glorified, that you bear much \_\_\_\_\_; so you will [prove to be] My \_\_\_\_\_."

• **Titus 3:4-7** "But when the kindness and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ our Savior toward man appeared, \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness which we have done, but according to His \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_ us, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of regeneration (being born again) and renewing of the \_\_\_\_\_, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior....."

**Definition:** "KNOWING, beloved brethren, your **ELECTION of GOD**" - Peter tells his readers to "**Be DILIGENT to make your CALLING and ELECTION sure,**" but it sounds like Paul here **KNOWS** that his readers **KNOW** that they are the Elect of God. "**CALLING and ELECTION**" means that God has chosen us to be in His family, not the other way around - that we chose to come to God. Of course, we had to say "Yes" to His calling and choosing us, because we have free will, but it is all God's doing, not ours. **God has "called us" in that He has chosen us and has a plan for our lives according to His own great purpose.** We will never be truly happy until we bring our lives into conformity with His **CALLING and PURPOSE for us.** In Ephesians 1:5 it is called "being **PREDESTINED**" and in **I Peter 1:2** it is called being **ELECT**. Not only has God **CHOSEN US** before the world existed, but He **KNEW** beforehand ("foreknowledge") how He would save us through the death of His own Son, before He even created man or before man sinned. To "**Be DILIGENT to make your CALLING and ELECTION sure**" simply means that we need to examine our lives to be sure we're on the right track with God's plan that He has for us.

• **I Peter 1:2** "\_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

• **Romans 8:29-30** "For whom He foreknew, He also \_\_\_\_\_ to be conformed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also \_\_\_\_\_, whom He \_\_\_\_\_, these He also \_\_\_\_\_, and whom He justified, these He also \_\_\_\_\_."

• **I Corinthians 1:26-28** "For you see your \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, that not many \_\_\_\_\_ according to the flesh, not many \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_. But God has chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to put to \_\_\_\_\_ the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and the things which are \_\_\_\_\_ God has \_\_\_\_\_, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are."

5 For our **GOSPEL did NOT come to you in WORD only**, but also in **POWER**, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know **what KIND of MEN we were AMONG YOU** for your sake.

• **Galatians 1:11-12** "But I make known to you, brethren, that the \_\_\_\_\_ which was \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ according to \_\_\_\_\_. For I neither \_\_\_\_\_ it from man, \_\_\_\_\_ was I \_\_\_\_\_ it, but it came through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

• **I Corinthians 11:23** "For I \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ that which

I also \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread.....”

• **Romans 16:25** “Now to Him who is able to establish you \_\_\_\_\_ to my \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began.....”

**Definition: “The GOSPEL which was PREACHED BY ME”** – We see how Paul claims that the gospel which he preached was **from God and NOT from man**, but what exactly is the gospel message which Paul preached? **Can we know EXACTLY what that GOSPEL is? Yes, Paul gives us “the gospel in a nutshell” in I Corinthians 15:1-4**, and he gives us the mechanics of **receiving the gospel message for salvation by faith** in Romans 10:8-12.

• **I Corinthians 15:1-4** “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the \_\_\_\_\_ which I \_\_\_\_\_ to you, which also you \_\_\_\_\_ and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that \_\_\_\_\_ which I \_\_\_\_\_ to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also \_\_\_\_\_: that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ according to the Scriptures, and that He was \_\_\_\_\_, and that He \_\_\_\_\_ again the third day according to the \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Romans 10:8-10** “But what does it say? ‘The \_\_\_\_\_ is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which we \_\_\_\_\_): that if you \_\_\_\_\_ with your \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ that God has \_\_\_\_\_ Him from the dead, \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_. For with the heart one \_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness, and with the mouth \_\_\_\_\_ is made to \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “What KIND of MEN we were AMONG YOU”** – Paul says he came to the Thessalonian church in **an open and honest way, not by deceit or trickery**. He also says he and those who came with him were as “gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.” We know from Scripture and from real life that FALSE TEACHERS always show their true colors when they start acting like dictators and treating their flock harshly, not in love.

• **I Thessalonians 2:3-8** “For our exhortation (preaching) did \_\_\_\_\_ come by deceit (trickery) or uncleanness, nor was it in guile (lying, falsehood). But as \_\_\_\_\_ have been \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ to be entrusted with the \_\_\_\_\_, even so we speak, \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_, but God who tests out hearts. For neither at any time did we use \_\_\_\_\_, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness – God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from \_\_\_\_\_, either from you or from others, when we might have made \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. But we were \_\_\_\_\_ among you, just as a nursing \_\_\_\_\_ cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

• **Acts 20:28-29** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the \_\_\_\_\_, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, which He has \_\_\_\_\_ with his own \_\_\_\_\_. For I know this, that after my departure \_\_\_\_\_ will come in among you, \_\_\_\_\_ sparing the \_\_\_\_\_.”