

Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Five: Paul's Second Missionary Journey – Acts 15:36-18:22, 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Read Acts 15:36-16:10.

- 1) Describe the split that occurred prior to Paul's departure on his second missionary journey. (Refer also to Acts 12:12, 25; 13:13. Then consider Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11, and Philemon 24, written by Paul later in his ministry.) Why do you think Luke might have included such a seemingly unpleasant event in his writings?

- 2) Using the map you received in Lesson 4, trace the cities listed between 15:40 and 16:10 that Paul, Silas and Timothy visited on this second missionary journey.

- 3) What can you learn from Acts 16:6-10 about the leading of God in your life?

Read Acts 16:11-18:22, tracing the remaining cities Paul visited in his second journey on your map.

- 4) List a few pieces of key information about Paul's ministry in each of these cities:
 - a) Philippi

 - b) Thessalonica

 - c) Berea

 - d) Athens

 - e) Corinth

 - f) Ephesus

- 5) The Athenians worshipped many gods but had no knowledge of the one true God. What would they have learned about Him by listening to Paul's speech in Acts 17:22-31?

- 6) Paul's experiences prove that there is nothing boring about a life devoted to serving Christ. Boredom is not primarily a matter of busy-ness but of purpose. What kinds of things have helped you discover God's good purpose for your life (include information pertaining to His general purpose as well as His specific

callings)? If you struggle to answer this, will you commit to sincerely praying this week to identify God's purpose for you? If you answered the first question, also tell how the Lord is using His purposes to keep your life interesting.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1-3.

- 7) What seems to be one of the main reasons Paul wrote the Thessalonians so shortly after leaving them? (Note what may have been the total amount of time Paul spent in Thessalonica on this journey, according to Acts 17:2.)
- 8) Make a list of the words and phrases Paul used in 1 Thessalonians 1-2 to describe ways he modeled service to the Thessalonians (and to us).
- 9) How burdened are you to reach out to people you know who are younger in the faith? If you do not already keep a physical or mental prayer list, start one today that includes these individuals by name.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4-5.

- 10) What common reference is found in the final verses of each of the five chapters of 1 Thessalonians?
- 11) The Thessalonians were apparently expecting the Lord Jesus to return very soon, which left them concerned about what would happen to believers who had died while awaiting Him. Paul relieved their fears by explaining the order of events, as they will occur at Christ's return. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, what is that order of events?
- 12) In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul described qualities that ought to define a believer in Christ.
 - a) What specific qualities did Paul say ought to result from the believer's understanding of Christ's Second Coming (5:4-11)?

- b) Which of the characteristics described in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 challenges you most?

Read 2 Thessalonians 1-3.

- 13) What facts do you learn about the Second Coming of Christ in 2 Thessalonians 1 that Paul did not specifically mention in his first letter to the Thessalonians?
- 14) Apparently, some individuals alarmed the Thessalonians by suggesting Christ's return had already occurred. What event did Paul outline in chapter 2 in order to reassure the Thessalonians, clearly stating it must precede Christ's return (include all the facts given regarding this particular event.)
- 15) 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 indicates that the Thessalonians expected Christ to return soon, and as a result, had stopped doing ordinary work.
- a) Contrast the mindset of the idle Thessalonians with the mindset of most Christians you know concerning Christ's return.
- b) Tell how Paul's teachings about the believer's expectation of Christ's return in 1 and 2 Thessalonians help you determine the kind of a mindset for which you ought to aim.
- c) What practice or habit could you institute that would help you maintain this mindset?