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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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1 Thessalonians

C1-3

C1 Vss 1-10. The letter is a report and instructions from the team of Paul, Silas, and Timothy

Paul typically begins with words of encouragement. Paul mentions the fact that they are chosen. The faith has also caused persecution among them. They are an example to all the believers. Others are telling about the faith of the Thessalonians. It seems they are focussed on the return of Jesus.

C2 Vss 1-20 Paul as with other ministry reminds them that there was no effort to take advantage of them financially. Paul reminds them that he supported his own ministry among them. And worked daily and hourly to encourage and strengthen them.

Paul moves to the issue of them dying at the hands of persecutors. He also wants them to know how much they tried to get back to them, but was withheld by satan.

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Paul interjects that he and his companions understand because they too are persecuted for preaching the Good News. Much of the persecution is from the Jews." 1-20

C3 Vss 1-13

Paul tells them why he sent Timothy and reminds them that they would face persecution. However, it is part of the Christian life that while we are taught about what lies ahead, living under duress and the spiritual war is harrowing. Often we don't know how we'll respond until we are hit.

Paul says we are destined for these difficulties. First Century believers embraced the Gospel under the circumstances of death and dying. What a glaring difference to today. Who tells a new convert you will encounter hardships. Paul is pleased when he discovers they are standing strong. It was encouraging to Paul.

Paul desires to return to fill the gaps in their faith. This is why building believers with the whole council of God is so important. Where they have these gaps is where Satan will exploit them.

C4-6

C4 Vss 1-

As with all other churches he consistently encouraged them to live for God. Along with a number of cautions they are to stay away from sex sins. Controlling the body as if it were on its own is noteworthy.

Paul has to repeat these same concerns with each church because they may not be able to share the information.

His words are to control our bodies and never cheat a Christian brother concerning his wife. Paul juxtaposes the difference between the brothers and heathens.

Persons doing so are rejecting God. As a person with years in ministry. It is impossible for believers to carry on adulterous relationships with spouses of believers. These are acts that defy a life in Christ, particularly if they become a practice.

While Paul spoke extensively to other churches about loving each other. Love is very apparent in the church in the same way gifts were apparent in the Church at Corinth.

Churches have personality it is shaped by their leaders (1-11)

Paul spends time on the resurrection of believers. We don't have to grieve the same way as non-believers as of this life is the end. There is a sadness about

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death, but it is not the end for the believer.

Paul gives revelation about what will happen with those who have died. As a church filled with excitement concerning the return of The Lord, believers are dying with the passage of time. So Paul provides revelation about how it will happen.

Those who have died will rise first. What a word for those loved ones who remain behind. Those on the earth will be caught up. Paul makes this statement anticipating that he would be alive. He used the pronoun "we" who remain behind as opposed to those who are left behind. The early church lived in imminent anticipation.

C5 Vss 1- Is it clear now that it is not so imminent and that they made a mistake in expecting a First Century return? Jesus was emphatic about readiness (.). Believers must maintain a sense of readiness regardless of the Age. They were not wrong at all. He reminds them that they are not in the dark concerning these things. He's taught them about the Lord's return no doubt.

Again he reminds them to be ready. It is not some falsely heightened alarm without purpose. It's designed to help maintain a holy walk. This is what being ready means. It does not mean to sit in a mountain looking in the sky.

Many use Paul's reference to God's wrath not being directed toward believers as an exclusion from man's persecution. This could not be the case as believers are subject to persecution from inception beginning with Jesus being crucified.

We are to encourage ourselves with these words of the Lord's return.

Paul wraps up the first letter with words to honor the Lord's workers. People have to be taught to honor their leaders, particularly those who share God's word. They are to be greatly respected.

Then he adds a number of final thoughts as if he's running out of time and papyrus. Warn the lazy, encourage the timid, be patient, take care of the weak, try to do good, be joyful.

The Holy Spirit must not be dragged. He says this in the context of prophecy. Listen to teaching and observe it is a view of not being a bottleneck to the Spirit's operation (1-29).

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