

1 Thessalonians

Primer for Discipleship

Introduction 1:1-10

I. Effective Disciplers 2:1-12

- A. Suffering Messengers (1-2)
- B. Bold Messengers of the Gospel of the Kingdom (2; cf. Acts 17:3, 7)
- C. Truthful Messengers, an exhortation without deceit or error (3)
- D. Approved Messengers, pleasing God who tests the heart (4)
- E. Unselfish Messengers, not covetous, seeking glory, or making demands (5-6)
- F. Gentle Messengers, as a nursing mother with dear children (7-8)
- G. Laboring Messengers, without becoming a burden to them (9)
- H. Blameless Messengers, behaving justly and devoutly (10)
- I. Imploring Messengers, as fathers exhorting children to walk worthy of God's kingdom (11)

II. New Disciples 2:13-16

- A. The Word of God effectively works in those who believe (13)
 - 1. They heard the Word of God
 - 2. They then received the Word of God
 - 3. They welcomed the Word of God
- B. They became imitators of the churches of God (14)
- C. They suffered persecution of their countrymen (14)
- [* The Judeans (14-16)
 - 1. who killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets
 - 2. who persecuted Jesus' disciples
 - 3. who do not please God
 - 4. who are contrary to all men (Gentiles)
 - 5. who fill up their measure of sin and wrath has come upon them]

III. Effective Disciplers Follow-up 2:17-3:13

- A. Eager to see new disciples again (2:17-18)
- B. Goal: to see new disciples in the presence of Jesus Christ at His coming (2:19-20)
- C. Sent helpers to establish and encourage them concerning their faith (3:1-5)
- D. Desire to see them and perfect what is lacking in their faith (3:6-10)
- E. Pray God that (3:11-13)
 - 1. He may direct our way to you (11)
 - 2. you may **increase** and **abound** in love to one another (12)
 - 3. to this end, He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness . . . until Christ comes (13)

IV. New Walk of New Disciples 4:1-5:11

- A. Work of Faith 4:1-8 [you should abound more and more]
 - 1. You received from us how you ought to walk and please God (1)
 - 2. You know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus (2)
 - 3. Your sanctification is the will of God, because God called you to holiness (3-8)
- B. Labor of Love 4:9-12 [you should abound more and more]
 - 1. You are taught by God
 - a. To love one another (4:9-10, cf. Jer 31:34)
 - b. To aspire to lead a quiet life (11)
 - c. To mind your own business (11)
 - d. To work with your own hands (11)
 - 2. That you may walk properly toward those who are outside, that you may lack nothing (12)
- C. Endurance of Hope 4:13-5:11

1. Jesus died and rose again, therefore (4:13-18)
 - a. God will bring with Jesus those who sleep in Him. . . . the dead in Christ will rise first (13-16)
 - b. those alive and remain will be caught up together with Him in the clouds (15-17)
 - c. then we shall always be with the Lord (17)
 - d. comfort one another with these words (18)
 2. The Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night (5:1-2)
 3. When they say, "Peace and Safety," they will not escape (5:3)
 4. But you are not in darkness that it should overtake you (5:4-11)
 - a. you are sons of the light and sons of the day (5)
 - b. do not sleep, like those of the night, but watch and be sober, putting on: (6-7)
 - 1) the breastplate of faith and love (8)
 - 2) a helmet of the hope of salvation (8)
 - c. for God did not appoint us to wrath (9)
 - d. but to be a purchased possession of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (9)
 - e. who died for us that . . . we should live with Him (10)
 - f. therefore comfort one another with these words (11)
- V. Exhortations to Disciples 5:12-24
- A. Recognize and highly esteem those over you in the Lord who admonish you; be at peace (12-13)
 - B. Warn those who are unruly . . . be patient with all (14)
 - C. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but pursue what is good (15)
 - D. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in everything, for the will of God for you (16-18)
 - E. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophecies (19-20)
 - F. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil (21-22)
 - G. Prayer that they will be completely sanctified and be blameless at the Lord's coming (23-24)
- Farewell 5:25-28