
a *Grace Notes* course

Foundations I

by Rev. Drue Freeman

Foundations 109

VMI authorizes any individual to copy and distribute these materials and use them for the purpose of teaching others about Christ and the Word of God; however, no one may alter, amend or make any changes to the text (regardless of how minor such changes may be). No one may charge any individual or groups of individuals (except for copy charges) for the use of these materials, it being understood that VMI has a policy of grace and does not charge for the use of its materials.

Any copying, retransmission, distribution, printing, or other use of Equip must set forth the following credit line, in full, at the conclusion of the portion of Equip that is used:

All Scripture quotations from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1994 by: The Lockman Foundation, A Corporation Not for Profit, La Habra, CA

Copyright © 1999 Village Ministries International, Inc. Reprinted with permission. Equip is a publication of Village Ministries International, Inc.

Grace Notes

Web Site: <http://www.gracenotes.info>

E-mail: wdoud@gracenotes.info

Foundations I

Foundations 109

Contents of this Lesson

Lesson 24 – Looking for the Relationships..... 3

Lesson 25 – Analyzing the Remote Context..... 5

Lesson 24 – Looking for the Relationships

1 NOTE PATTERNS OF SUBJECT MATTER THAT EMERGE.

As we look at the titles of each verse in the second paragraph of 1 Thessalonians, we begin to see a pattern emerge.

V2 THANKSGIVING IN PRAYER.

V3 WHY THANKSGIVING - FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

V4 LIVING OUT THEIR CALL FROM GOD.

V5 THEIR ROOTS IN THE GOSPEL.

V6 THE DIFFERENCES THE GOSPEL MADE.

V7 THE FIRST RESULT OF THE DIFFERENCE - A MODEL.

V8 THE SECOND RESULT OF THE DIFFERENCE - ONGOING IMPACT.

V9 THE FOUNDATION OF THE DIFFERENCES - TURNING FROM IDOLS.

V10 THE FOUNDATION OF THE DIFFERENCES - HEAVENLY LIVING.

It is easy to see patterns of thanksgiving, and differences that the gospel made in their lives.

2 LOOK CLOSER AT THE VERSES NOTING OBSERVATIONS.

V2 THANKSGIVING IN PRAYER.

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;”

In this verse, Paul tells us what he does (gives thanks) and how he does it (prayer).

V3 WHY THE THANKSGIVING-FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

“constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,”

This verse tells us three reasons why he gives thanks for them:

- (1) Their work of faith,
- (2) their labor of love and,
- (3) their steadfastness of hope.

Their Faith, Hope and Love are based on three things as well:

- (1) Their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ,
- (2) their intimacy with the Father and,
- (3) their call from God (V4).

V4 LIVING OUT THEIR CALL FROM GOD.

“knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;”

V5 THEIR ROOTS IN THE GOSPEL.

“for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.”

They accepted the gospel, which came to them:

- (1) In word,
- (2) in power,
- (3) in the Holy Spirit,
- (4) with full conviction,
- (5) from men of character.

V6 THE DIFFERENCE THE GOSPEL MADE.

“You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,”

The Gospel made a difference. Its hearers matured, and they became imitators of Paul, his companions, even the Lord. They joyously received the Gospel in the midst of tribulation.

V7 THE FIRST RESULT OF THE DIFFERENCE –

AN EXAMPLE.

“so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.”

The first result of the difference that the gospel made was that the Thessalonians became an example to neighboring churches.

V8 THE SECOND RESULT OF THE DIFFERENCE - IMPACT.

“For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.”

The second result was that their faith had spread even beyond their neighbors.

V9 THE FOUNDATION OF THE DIFFERENCES - TURNING FROM IDOLS.

“For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,”

The first foundation of the differences was that the people turned from idols.

V10 THE FOUNDATION OF THE DIFFERENCES - HEAVENLY LIVING.

“and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

The second foundation of the differences was that the Thessalonians were anxiously waiting for the Lord’s return.

It is the Lord who was (1) raised from the dead and (2) will deliver us from the coming wrath.

3 MAKE A MORE DETAILED OUTLINE USING YOUR OBSERVATIONS.

A (V2)

B (V3-4)

1)

2)

3)

a

b

c

C (V5)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

D (V6)

1).

2).

E (V7-8)

1).

2).

F (V9-10)

1)

2)

a

b.

4 WHEN YOU ARE DONE IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE THIS:

A THANKSGIVING. V2

B WHY THE THANKSGIVING. V3-4

1) Work Of Faith And

2) Labor Of Love And

3) Steadfastness Of Hope.

a in our Lord Jesus Christ.

b in the presence of our God and Father.

c their divine call.

C THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOSPEL. V5

1) In Word.

2) In Power.

3) In The Holy Spirit.

4) With Full Conviction.

5) From Men Of Character.

D TWO DIFFERENCES THE GOSPEL MADE. V6

1) Imitated Paul’s Group And The Lord.

2) Gave Spiritual Joy In The Midst Of Tribulation.

E TWO RESULTS OF THE DIFFERENCES. V7-8

1) Became Examples To Neighboring Churches.

2) Became More Widespread Examples Of Faith.

F TWO FOUNDATIONS OF THE DIFFERENCES. V9-10

1) Turned From Idols.

2) Awaiting The Lord’s Return.

a The One raised from the dead.

b The One who will deliver us from the coming wrath.

We notice that in this chapter Paul is giving a tremendous commendation to the church located at Thessalonica. They are in fact called an “example” or “model” church. Therefore, we can learn what is involved in being a “model” church today.

Lesson 25 – Analyzing the Remote Context

We now can begin to analyze the remote context - comparing Scripture with Scripture. The easiest way to do this is by using a concordance that lists all of the places where a given word is used. By tracing where these words are used, we are led to other places in the Bible where the same subject is considered.

Different concordances work in different ways. Becoming familiar with how one works is an important first step to studying the Remote Context. Two well-known and very helpful concordances are the Englishman’s Greek Concordance and the Englishman’s Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance. These arrange references by the Greek or Hebrew words. Thus all the locations of a specific word such as KALOS, “good,” would be found under that particular heading.

The most common concordance, Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, arranges (by English) every instance of every word. For example, every passage containing the English word “good” is listed. There are, however, several different Greek and Hebrew words translated into English as “good,” and each one generally qualified as “good,” has its own nuance, or shade of meaning.

In our detailed study of the Bible, it is important to know which word, rendered “good”, is being used. For this purpose Strong’s has assigned a number to every Greek and Hebrew word in the Bible. For example, beside each passage containing the English word “good” is a number corresponding to the Greek or Hebrew word used in that instance (The particular Greek and Hebrew word is then referenced in the back of the concordance). It looks something like this:

GOOD:

Matt 3:10 which bringeth not forth good fruit-2570

Matt 5:45 sun to rise on the evil and on the good-18

The word for “good” used in Matthew 3:10 (reference #2570), is the Greek word KALOS, which means “intrinsically good,” or, “good by nature.” On the other hand, the word “good” used in Matthew 5:45 (reference #18), is the Greek word AGATHOS, which meant to the Greeks, “that which becomes good.”

Descriptions of fuller meanings of the Greek and Hebrew words are also found in books called “Lexicons,” which are dictionaries of meanings. Use of these books will be extremely helpful for detailed Bible study.

Now look at the word “imitator” which is found in 1 Thessalonians 1:6. Some English translations translate the Greek word “MIMETES” as “follower” (King James Version) instead of “imitator.” The Greek word means to imitate or mimic, and is used six times in the New Testament. It is found in the following passages:

1 Cor 4:16 “I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me.”

1 Cor 11:1 “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

Eph 5:1 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;”

1Thess 1:6 “You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit;”

1Thess 2:14 “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they {did} from the Jews;”

Heb 6:12 “that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

By studying a few passages where the word “imitate” is used, we can get a pretty clear understanding of the Remote Context on the subject of imitation. The major points would be:

1 In 1 Corinthians 4:16 we read that Paul wants members of the Corinthian church to imitate him. In the Immediate Context of the verse (V14-15), we find this means they ought to behave the same as a child imitating his father.

2 In 1 Corinthians 11:1, we discover that imitating Paul has a qualification: We are not to imitate his sins or bad habits (if we read Romans 7, we find out that even Paul had an ongoing battle with sin), but rather the way Paul imitated Jesus Christ.

3 In Ephesians 5:1, we are told to imitate God as a child would his father.

4 The Thessalonian church did imitate Paul and the Lord. 1 Thess 1:6

5 The Thessalonian church also imitated the Judean churches in their endurance of suffering (1 Thess 2:14). Note that this passage is within the same book, so we get a look at the Intermediate Context.

6 An important part of this imitation is ministry. Heb 6:9-12

If we put all these passages together, we can see that we are encouraged by Scripture to do three things:

1 Imitate God, Jesus Christ and Paul.

2 Imitate them like a child would his father, even in the midst of suffering.

3 Imitate them by ministering to others.

We can now validly expand the concept of imitation (in relationship to 1 Thessalonians 1:6) because we have determined what Scripture has to specifically say about it. We know that when Paul commended the Thessalonians on their imitation of him and his group, he was viewing that commendation in light of his own imitation of Jesus Christ; not in regard to his human weaknesses and frailties (compare Romans 7).

For purposes of application, we must determine a few of the qualities of the Father and Son that we are to imitate. For example, we can cite the importance of character, or the significance of fulfilling a promise, or the importance of living in truth (when we begin talking about the Lord, the possibilities are endless). The extent of what we yield and teach from God's Word must be a matter of ongoing, consistent prayer. As teachers of God's Word we must realize that new and immature Believers can not and should not be expected to understand deep theology (Heb 5:11-14). We must be aware of the level of spiritual maturity of our audience and communicate to that level.

We must consistently return to the context from which we began so that we do not miss the main point of the chapter and paragraph. The Thessalonian church members imitated Paul, and the Lord, and became an example for every Believer to follow.

In looking at the Immediate Context, we find some qualities of a model church. Paul's thanksgiving to the Thessalonians (V2) was for three things:

- (1) Their work of faith;
- (2) their labor of love; and
- (3) their steadfastness of hope.

Throughout the New Testament there are so many references to work (173), faith (246), labor (19), love (115), steadfastness (32), and hope (56) that one could spend weeks or months studying or teaching these topics. The numbers in parenthesis give the number of times the nouns are used. The related verbs are also used numerous times. These topics are extremely important in the understanding of what it means to be a model church.