

## Women's Summer Bible Study Notes (NLT) - - - July 8, 2021

**Introduction:** Open with story about how easily misunderstandings can happen. We must surrender our "right to be understood" to the Lord.

### Greetings from Paul

#### 1 This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. (Collaboration)

- I. **Comment: We see from the Greeting that Paul** was not a "loner." Isolationism is not a Christian virtue, but collaboration is!! You may have heard it said, "There are no Lone Ranger Christians in the Body of Christ." (Proverbs 18: 1; Phil. 4: 3)
  - A. **Proverbs 18: 1 (NASB)** "He who separates himself, seeks his OWN desires and quarrels against all sound wisdom."
  - B. **In I Corinthians 3: 9 (NLT)** Paul exhorts us, "For **we are God's fellow workers;** you are God's field, *you are* God's building."
  - C. **Philippians 4: 3 - (NLT)** "And I ask you, my true partner, **to help these two women,** for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of **my co-workers,** whose names are written in the Book of Life.

**II Thess. 1:1 (con't)** We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who **belong to God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Sense and reality of belonging.**)

**II. Comment:** God knew and God knows that one of the greatest needs of humanity is the need to be accepted and to belong. Paul addresses the Christians in Thessalonica by saying “you who belong to God . . . ” What difference does that **sense of belonging** make in us? Let me answer with a few passages:

- A. **Psalm 100: 3** “Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, **and we are his**. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” (Assurance of provision and protection)
- B. **I Corinthians 6: 19-20** “**Don’t you realize that your body** is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? **You do not belong to yourself, 20** for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” (God is interested in us spirit, soul and body.)
- C. **Romans 8: 1** “So now there is **no condemnation** for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”
- D. I Corinthians 15: 22-23 “Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone **who belongs to Christ** will be given new life. **23** But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all **who belong to Christ** will be raised when he comes back. (A glorious new life is ours)
- E. **Galatians 5: 24** “Those **who belong** to Christ Jesus **have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross** and crucified them there.” (Died to sin, so we can live for God)

F. **I Peter 2: 9** “ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, **God’s very own possession**. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (We are ambassadors for Christ, we belong to Him, not to ourselves.)

III. **2** May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace**.

**Two things** that are precipitated by our connection to God as Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ as Lord are Grace and peace. I am so grateful for Grace and Peace.

I just want to give you a few cross reference passages for these two priceless commodities that come from an ongoing relationship with God and being found to be “in Christ”:

- A. **Grace**: God’s grace is extended to us as we put our faith in Him and His redeeming power to graft us into His family! Some have described Grace as **God’s-Riches-At-Christ’s-Expense**. Let that sink in for a moment!! These truths are best described in Scripture. We will look at just a few passages but there are many more:
1. **Ezra 7: 6, 9, 28** “because the gracious hand of the Lord his God was on him.”
  2. Romans 5: 15-20, “But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But **even greater** is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. **16** And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. **17** For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But **even greater is** God’s **wonderful grace** and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. **18** Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life

for everyone. **19** Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. **20** God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became **more abundant**.

3. **II Corinthians 5: 21** "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.
4. **Ephesians 2: 8-9**, "God saved you by **his grace** when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

B. **Peace:** Peace with God, rather than enmity with and alienation from God is something that Christians inherit at salvation that is so absent from our culture and so becoming of true believers in Jesus Christ.

1. **In John 14:27** we read, " Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
2. **Then in John 16: 33**, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace."
3. Finally, **in Matthew 5: 9** the Bible says, "Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God."

We cannot become peacemakers without first having peace with God ourselves.

#### **IV. Encouragement during Persecution**

**II Thessalonians 1: 3** "Dear brothers and sisters, **we can't help but thank God for you**, because your **faith is flourishing** and your **love for one another is growing**. **4** We **proudly tell God's other** churches about your **endurance and faithfulness** in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. **5** And **God will use this persecution** to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. **6** In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you."

## V. Cross reference to: I Thessalonians 5: 1-28

### A. The Day of the Lord - - -

1. Will come like “a thief in the night . . .”
2. “As labor pains upon a pregnant woman . . .”
3. “But you, brethren, are not of the darkness . . .”
4. “But let us watch and be sober . . .”
5. How are we sober?? By putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
6. We have an appointment with God, but in Christ, it is not to wrath, but rather we are appointed in God for salvation THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord.
7. “ Therefore [la](#) comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.” (I Thess. 5:11)

### B. Exhortations - I Thessalonians 5: 12-28

“ Dear brothers and sisters,

1. Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13 Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work.
2. And live peacefully with each other. (Because we have received peace from God, we can be “peacemakers” with those around us.)
3. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to **warn** those **who are lazy**.
4. Encourage those who are timid.
5. Take tender care of those who are weak.
6. Be patient with everyone.

7. See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.
8. Always be joyful. (We have the assignment to “Be Joyful”.)
9. Never stop praying.
10. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.
11. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.
12. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said.
13. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.

### **Paul’s Final Greetings**

23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 24 God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

25 Dear brothers and sisters, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brothers and sisters with a sacred kiss.

27 I command you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters.

28 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Now let’s return to II Thessalonians 1: 3-6 and read it in the light of what we just read in**

I Thessalonians 5: 12-28!

Closing: II Thessalonians 1: 3-6: “Dear brothers and sisters,  
we can’t help but thank God for you,  
because your faith is flourishing and

your love for one another is growing.

**4** We proudly tell God's other churches about

your endurance and

Your faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.

**5** And God will use this persecution

- a. to show his justice and
- b. to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering.
- c. **6** In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you.