



## SESSION 1

# GRAB YOUR BOOTS!

**Theme:** God expects us to show Christ in our character and actions.

### I. Christlikeness \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:1–10)

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ (17:1–4)

Every believer should live in a way that proclaims Christ, \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Changing the \_\_\_\_\_ (17:5–10)

\_\_\_\_\_ works through dedicated believers to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to people's lives.

### II. Christlikeness \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 1:1–5)

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1–3)

Those who put their \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ will be noticeably \_\_\_\_\_ from the world.

#### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (1:4)

God ultimately works in people to \_\_\_\_\_ them to Himself so that they \_\_\_\_\_ to Him in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. The \_\_\_\_\_ (1:5)

Paul counted on the \_\_\_\_\_ to work in the lives of those who heard the gospel.

### III. Christlikeness \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 1:6–10)

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit (1:6–8)

All believers have the Holy Spirit and the opportunity to be a " \_\_\_\_\_ " in their \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ God (1:9)

Our worship of God should be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ (1:10)

Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ should be on our minds every day. It should motivate us to \_\_\_\_\_ and serve the Lord.



# Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

## MONDAY

*Read Acts 17:1–4.*

Who was the focus of Paul's preaching?

Who is the focus of your conversations? What do your friends learn about Jesus from talking to you?

## THURSDAY

*Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5.*

Why was Paul sure that the Thessalonians were true believers?

The apostles not only preached the Word but also proved its power through their conduct. In what ways do your actions prove the power of the gospel?

## TUESDAY

*Read Acts 17:5–10.*

How had Paul, Silas, and the other believers "turned the world upside down"?

How can you help change your part of the world for Christ?

## FRIDAY

*Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6–8.*

Why do you think Paul says the Thessalonians are imitators of his team and Christ?

Who are your examples as you seek to live out your faith? Who might be imitating you?

## WEDNESDAY

*Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1–3.*

Think of your recent works of faith and labors of love. Which ones were most likely to set an example for other believers?

Pray now that your hope will remain strong through difficult circumstances.

## SATURDAY

*Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10.*

How sure are you of Christ's return?

How will you let this truth affect your life right now?



# Tough Questions Answered



## How does God express His wrath today?



During the end times God will pour out His wrath (Rev. 6:16, 17; 19:5), but where is His wrath today? In an unjust world full of violence and corruption, it's easy to wonder why God doesn't rain down immediate punishment.

God loves us, so He doesn't always punish sin immediately—and we should be glad that He doesn't. He wants every person to be saved and desires that no one should perish (2 Peter 3:9). So, through Jesus, He provided deliverance from His final judgment (1 Thess. 1:10) and continues to give people opportunities to repent. He is withholding His full wrath because of His love for humanity. But we can see His partial wrath expressed even now.

**At the final judgment, God's wrath will be final.**

All people are born sinners and separated from God. Until people put their faith in Jesus for salvation, they will remain separated from Him. God's wrath is already abiding with, or remaining on, those who don't believe in the Son of God (John 3:36).

God reveals His wrath from Heaven against all unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18) by giving men over to their sins (1:28). In other words, God allows people to suffer the natural consequences of their sinful choices. We see this in the world. The collapse of society under moral decay, for example, is a result of God's wrath.

God has also put into place systems of government to bring about His present wrath (Rom. 13:4, 5). When lawbreakers are punished, God uses that earthly punishment as an instrument of His wrath. Those who receive just punishment still have a chance to repent and be delivered from God's final judgment.

Earthly governments aren't perfect, so not every criminal is condemned. But no one who rejects God will escape His judgment (Rom. 2:5–9). Today, God reveals part of His wrath so that all have a chance to repent. At the final judgment, God's wrath will be final (Rev. 20:15). There will be no escape.

# Ancient Sound Science



When Paul talked about the word of the Lord “sounding” from the lives of the Thessalonians, could he have been thinking about the ancient Greeks’ ability to create good acoustics?

Although the Greeks didn’t fully understand the science of sound, they certainly understood how to manipulate sound. They built outdoor amphitheatres with semicircular rows of seating rising up a hillside and with a center, circular stage at the base of the hill. Some of the theaters had room for 15,000 people. In the most famous of these, the amphitheater in Epidaurus (pictured), an actor whispering on stage can be heard from the back row—with no amplification.



The perfect acoustics of the theater in Epidaurus remind us to let God’s Word sound out clearly from our lives to everyone around us.

## Memory Verse Review



### Memory Verse—1 Thessalonians 1:8

The Thessalonian believers looked to Paul and Silas as their examples of true followers of Christ. Soon they too became examples for others. Their faithful service for God spoke more powerfully than their words. News of their faith spread throughout their region of Macedonia and beyond. Their faith had become so well known that Paul didn’t need to encourage them to share their faith with others.

1. Do others recognize you are a believer in Christ?
2. What might a younger believer learn about life in Christ from your example?
3. Where might your life communicate God’s truth—at school, on a team, in your home?

**Additional Memory Verses**—Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:11, 12.

## Measuring Growth



Paul and Silas established the church in Thessalonica during Paul’s second missionary journey. Persecutors soon chased them out of town. Later, Paul sent Timothy to check on the new believers. When Timothy returned with a good report, Paul responded with his first letter. He encouraged the new believers by thanking God for evidence of their faith. He praised them for following the Christlike example he and Silas had set for them and for becoming examples themselves. News of the believers’ life-changing faith spread as they continued living for Christ and waiting for His return.

Look for the following indicators that you are setting a godly example for others.

1. My love for Christ motivates me to serve others.
2. My actions reflect the truth of the gospel.
3. My attitudes and actions, even in difficult times, demonstrate hope in Christ.