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| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**  Week No. 5 – Chapter 1:6-10 |  |

1. Read (See "Short Guide for Bible Study" handout)
2. Recognize and Research (See "Short Guide for Bible Study" handout)
3. Relate and Reflect
   1. Paul commends the Thessalonians on being imitators of him as well as the Lord. How were the Thessalonians imitators of Paul and Christ? Why would he also add the Lord?
      1. Where else in scripture does Paul write of the church imitating himself?
      2. How was Paul able to command other believers to imitate himself?
   2. The Thessalonians received the Word in tribulation, or said another way, the gospel brought them suffering. Is this to be expected for all Christians?
      1. What is the purpose of suffering in a believer’s life?
      2. How can a believer have joy while enduring suffering?
   3. Paul mentions how the Thessalonians turned from idols to serve God. What does the N.T. say concerning the dangers of idols?
   4. How does a Christian serve God? What is service? (Hint: look into the Greek translation of service)
   5. Why would Paul mention God raising His son from the dead? What does that have to do with Christ’s return?
   6. Why should Christians live in anticipation of Christ? What are they waiting for Christ to do?
   7. What does the scripture say about God’s wrath? What promises does God make concerning His wrath? What implications should this future event have in the present?
4. Respond –– what personal applications can we derive from these first five verses of 1 Thessalonians?
   1. Develop a teaching outline based on the main point that is derived from the structure of the text. Your outline should bridge the gap from, "Then and There", to the, "Here and Now." Develop this outline as something you would teach in Sunday school or a Bible study.

Warren Wiersbe provides the following helpful advice on forming the proposition:

1. "It should be biblical, a timeless truth that is worth preaching about.
2. It should be important and relevant to the needs of the congregation.
3. It should be definite and clear, uncluttered by abstract language or literary embellishments. [Simplify your proposition.]
4. It should be accurate and honest and not promise more than the preacher can produce. You don't lay a foundation for a skyscraper and then build a chicken coop on it.
5. It should be interesting so that the listener is encouraged to want to listen to the development of the theme in the sermon.
6. It should usually be stated in the present tense, what God does for us today and not what he did for Moses centuries ago. 'Jesus helped Peter when he was sinking' is a valid statement; but for a sermon thesis, it would better be stated, 'In the storms of your life, your Savior is present to help you.'"[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Warren Wiersbe and David Wiersbe, *The Elements of Preaching* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1986), 26-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)