

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Dave Winters

Part 36 | 1 Thessalonians: Pursue Holiness

1 Thessalonians (Acts 17:1-15)

CALLED to be holy,

God's will for you: be holy 4:1-3a

of the light and the day 5:5

Made holy by the **SPIRIT**,

holiness given not earned 1:4-7; Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:24

inside-out not outside-in Matthew 23:25-26

Stand and be **HOLY**,

in victorious holy love 3:12-13; John 13:35

against sexual immorality 4:3-8; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Peter 2:11

FAITHFUL is God.

5:23-24



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO THE
Thessalonians

Each time Paul wraps up his ministry to a church or individual in Acts whom he later writes a letter to, we'll take a week to give an overview of what he wrote to them. **This week we're in 1 Thessalonians.**

Where in Acts? Acts 17:1-15

Why did Paul write them? Paul wrote to encourage them in their faith when life was hard and to clear up some confusion about death and Christ's return.

Key Verses
4:14-17 – assurance of Jesus's return
5:16-18 – God's will for every Christian

Basic Outline
SECTION 1: Faithfulness to the Lord (1:1-3:13)
SECTION 2: Watchfulness for the Lord (4:1-5:28)

Key Topics

- Encouragement when life is hard & unfair. (the whole letter)
- God's call for sexual purity. (4:3-8)
- Death & Jesus's 2nd Coming (4:13-18)

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Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. What was your favorite car of the last 3 decades?
2. True or false: Everyone should be required to work in the service industry at some point in their lives. Discuss... 😊

Priming the Pump...

- As you think back on this week's message, what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week..

1. Pastor Dave talked a lot about God's desire for us to be holy. What are some of the greatest pressures we face in today's world that try to mold us into something other than what God wants?
2. What are some ingredients found in the following Scriptures that, if mixed into your life, can help you resist that pressure?...

⁶ "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." **JOSHUA 1:6-9** (NIV)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **ROMANS 12:1-2** (NIV)

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue three things:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁴ And we **urge** you, **brothers**, **admonish** the **idle**, **encourage** the **fainthearted**, **help** the weak, be **patient** with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one **repays**

anyone evil for **evil**, but **always seek** to do **good** to one **another** and to **everyone**.

¹⁶ **Rejoice** **always**, ¹⁷ **pray** without **ceasing**, ¹⁸ **give thanks** in all **circumstances**; for this is the will of God in **Christ Jesus** for you.

S C E A S I N G I V E R
F I D L E S A N Y O N E
U R G E E J R W B P C P
A C A V K M E P R A O A
P U D E M I J U O T U Y
R M M R A R O A T I R S
A S O Y N W I L H E A U
Y T N O O D C W E N G M
F A I N T H E A R T E D
G N S E H P Y Y S Y V D
O C H J E S U S S F I T
O E C H R I S T H E L P
D S C V T H A N K S T O

life groups Study Guide (continued)

¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 PETER 1:13-16 (NIV)

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **JAMES 4:4-8 (NIV)**

3. A common principle that can be observed throughout Scripture is that our obedience often precedes God's intervention and blessing in hard situations. **Read Joshua 3:7-17** and **6:1-7** and identify what steps of obedience God was asking his people to take.

- What might have held the Israelites back from obeying God in either of these situations? List a few reasons.
- What are some of the excuses we make for not obeying God today?

Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Pray for each other's mindset this week and think of ways you can encourage each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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PART **36**



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Pursue Holiness

1 THESSALONIANS (ACTS 17:1-15)



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<https://wawasee.today>