



children
of the DAY
1 & 2
Thessalonians
BETH MOORE

*Listening Guides
with Blanks*

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Group Session One

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Introduction

In today's opening session, we'll turn to the first of two letters we're studying, and we'll give ourselves completely to the first four words. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and record them here:

_____, _____, and _____

Luke supplies the backstory of their braiding paths in Acts 15:36–16:5. Consider Acts 15:36-41 first. Keep in mind throughout our journey that Silas in the Book of Acts is called by a more formal “Latinized” name in both 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

1. Silas (Silvanus) entered a _____ _____ _____ by a _____ _____. (Compare Acts 9:26-28.)

In preparation for the next point, compare specific wording in Acts 15:39 to Hebrews 10:24. The Greek lexical term used in both verses is *paroxusmós* (English “paroxysm”).

2. The _____ _____ that can _____ can also _____ (Prov. 27:17).

Now let's see the third member of this party of three added to the mix. Read Acts 16:1-5.

3. The _____ we _____ could become one of the _____ people in our lives.

Fast-forward to Acts 17:1. Follow it up with verses 2-10.

4. A journey _____ could lead to the exact _____ of _____ God is looking to use.

As we dedicate ourselves to the task ahead, we're going to reach ahead long enough to snatch a phrase out of 1 Thessalonians 4:9: "For you yourselves have been _____ by _____." This English phrase is drawn from one rare compound word in the Greek: *theodidaktoi*.

► Look inside the back cover for the map you can use throughout this study.

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Group Session Two

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: Over how many Sabbaths did they serve in Thessalonica? (p. 16)

DAY 2: Who wrote each letter to the Thessalonians? (p. 19)

DAY 3: How, according to Paul, did the gospel come to the Thessalonians? (p. 25)

DAY 4: The Thessalonian believers “became” what two things (1 Thess. 1:6-7)? (p. 28)

DAY 5: What sounded forth from the Thessalonians after their conversion? (p. 32)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: How are you impacted by the knowledge that the Holy Spirit had you in mind as Scripture was penned? (p. 18)

DAY 2: What good memory do you have from a harsh season of your life? (p. 20)

DAY 3: How would you describe the Holy Spirit within you bearing witness? (p. 24)

DAY 4: Do you embrace or struggle with the fact that our God is filled with joy? (p. 28)

DAY 5: Describe a situation in which you witnessed or participated in “the excited transmission” of the gospel. (p. 34)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction

Today we return to 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and do not forget the added significance: It is highly probable that we are reading the _____ of _____ from the _____ of the apostle Paul.

From the opening verses of this five-chapter letter, we can draw the following applications:

1. Three groups are in operation at all times in a thriving body of believers:

_____, _____, and _____.

▪ _____: The _____

▪ _____: The _____

▪ _____: The _____

“In Acts and the letters bearing Paul’s name about _____, often coupled with a score of assorted titles, are associated with the Apostle.”¹

2. _____ get the privilege of telling _____ that _____ are _____ by God and _____ (1 Thess. 1:4).

3. Often we hope _____ is at _____, but sometimes we _____ to _____ it (1 Thess. 1:5).

4. In a world of _____ and _____, we better be ready to _____. “You know what kind of men we _____ to be among you for your sake” (1 Thess. 1:5, ESV).

5. A geographical lesson from Thessalonica: Each circle of believers faces outward so that THEY _____ and we _____.

6. Until _____ back, we _____ back (1 Thess. 1:10).

1. D. Michael Martin, *1, 2 Thessalonians*, The New American Commentary, vol. 33 (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001), 48.

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Group Session Three

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: What happened to Paul and Silas after they were dragged into the marketplace before the authorities (Acts 16:22-24)? (p. 39)

DAY 2: What two gifts might believers share with those to whom they minister? (p. 44)

DAY 3: What action verb describes how we journey with God? (p. 47)

DAY 4: Focus on 1 Thessalonians 2:14. How had the Thessalonians become “imitators of God’s churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea”? (p. 51)

DAY 5: In 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, what words did Paul use to describe the Thessalonian Christians? (p. 58)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: What do you think He’s searching out and testing our hearts to find? (p. 41)

DAY 2: Does 1 Thessalonians 2:8 stir up a story of your own? (p. 46)

DAY 3: How does Christ walking among the churches encourage you? (p. 49)

DAY 4: Share a time when you experienced some form of persecution because of your belief in Jesus. (p. 51)

DAY 5: Have you ever avoided relationships to avoid pain? (p. 59)

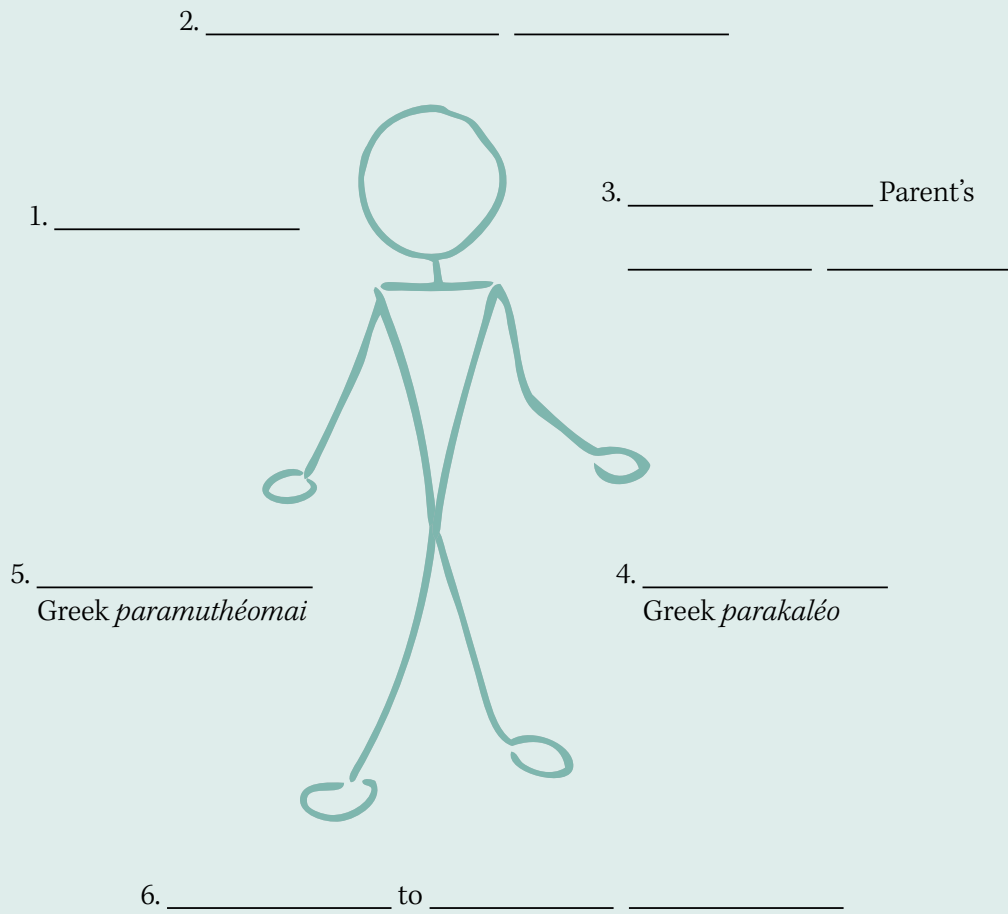
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Introduction

Today we will revisit 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 and draw a diagram depicting the makings of a healthy child in the family of God. These questions will help drive our pens:

According to 1 Thessalonians 2, what would _____ look like?

Or, to put it another way: How would we diagram _____?



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Group Session Four

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: Why did Satan hinder them from getting back to the Thessalonians? What do you think Satan was seeking to prevent by keeping them apart? (p. 65)

DAY 2: Exactly how did Paul go about proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ? (p. 69)

DAY 3: What was Timothy sent to Thessalonica to do? (p. 72)

DAY 4: By what did Paul not want the Thessalonians to be moved? (p. 77)

DAY 5: What profound change in the language of prayer is first introduced in 1 Thessalonians 3:11? (p. 81)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: What examples illustrate the dangers of “legalism” and “license”? (p. 65)

DAY 2: Which of the equations on page 70–71 (including your own additions) speak to you most personally and specifically? (p. 71)

DAY 3: Do you ever feel like all the planning has flown the coop and you're just reacting? Describe a time you felt that way. (p. 76)

DAY 4: What maladies come to mind at the mention of the word “affliction”? (p. 77)

DAY 5: What does the possibility that Paul may have dictated some of his letters through Silas contribute to your understanding of their relationship? (p. 83)

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Introduction

In today's session, we will return to the third chapter of 1 Thessalonians and consider the madness and the gladness of deep personal involvement.

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5. Note the madness:

1. The _____ to the _____ (v. 1).

Check this definition: _____: “from Latin *vulnerare* to _____

(1) capable of being _____

(2) open to _____ or _____.”¹

Capture Paul's frame of mind in 1 Corinthians 2:2-5 and 2 Corinthians 11:28.

2. The _____ (v. 5).

3. The evaporating _____ of _____ (v. 5).

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8. Note the gladness:

1. The _____ (v. 6).

2. The _____ (v. 7).

3. The _____ of _____ (v. 6).

4. The _____ (v. 8).

Conclude with verse 12. From Chrysostom's Homilies on 1 Thessalonians 4.

“Do you see the _____ of _____ that is shown by his words? Make you to increase and abound ...”²

1. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed, s.v. “vulnerable.”

2. Gene L. Green, *The Letters to the Thessalonians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002), 177.

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Group Session Five

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: What kind of life did Christ say He'd come to give in John 10:10? (p. 90)

DAY 2: Exactly why did the Thessalonians have no need for anyone to write to them about brotherly love? (p. 94)

DAY 3: What two reasons did Paul give for the directives he issued in verse 11? (p. 98)

DAY 4: What group of people has the first access at the coming of the Lord? (p. 103)

DAY 5: What similarities and differences did you note between Exodus 19:16-20 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18? (p. 107)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: How does the phrase "more and more" contradict the notion of a place of arrival in this earthly journey in which we simply maintain from there? (p. 90)

DAY 2: Do you have an example of someone who seemed to have learned biblical truth straight from God without textbook, training, or a human teacher? (p. 97)

DAY 3: What is the most prominent lesson you've had to learn about minding your own business? (p. 101)

DAY 4: What might be gained through thinking of death in terms of sleep? (p. 104)

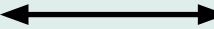
DAY 5: What are you most curious about concerning end-time events? (p. 106)

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Introduction

This week in our homework, we purposely dodged portions of 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 so we could save them for today's session. This countercultural segment of Scripture centers on _____.

Keep the following continuum in view as we move through our discussion:

There are _____  There are _____
regarding _____ regarding _____

1. What God dictates here is _____ and it was pertinent _____ (v. 3). The Greek word for sexual immorality is _____.¹

2. What God dictates here is _____. See v. 1: “just as _____ are _____”

3. What God dictates here is _____. See v. 4: “that _____ of you _____”²

4. What God dictates here is _____. See v. 4. God does not _____ of us what cannot ultimately _____ us.

1. S. Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, s.v. “porneía.”

2. F. F. Bruce, *1 and 2 Thessalonians*, Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 45 (Dallas: Nelson Reference and Electronic, 1982), 83.

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Group Session Six

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: Exactly what will come “like a thief in the night”? (p. 116)

DAY 2: What two pieces of attire do children of the day “put on” (1 Thess. 5:8)? (p. 122)

DAY 3: What words or concepts pop into your mind when you hear “wrath”? (p. 123)

DAY 4: To whom are the responsibilities listed in 1 Thess. 5:14-15 assigned? (p. 132)

DAY 5: How should we pray? What do you think “pray constantly” means? (p. 136)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: What part of your experience fights to distort your biblical beliefs? (p. 115)

DAY 2: What one event in your life shook you to your most awakened state? (p. 121)

DAY 3: How does God's wrath differ from ours? (p. 126)

DAY 4: What is an admonition you accepted and a reason you're glad you did? (p. 131)

DAY 5: Which of the exhortations in 5:16-22 do you think you need most to apply in your present circumstances? Why? (p. 135)

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Introduction

Today we are going to narrow the lens on four rapid-fire verses toward the conclusion of the First Letter to the Thessalonians. First Thessalonians 5:19-21 encapsulates a segment sparse on words and immense in implication and application.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (ESV)—Do not _____ the _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 (ESV)—Do not _____ _____.

Let's throw some questions out on the table:

What are prophecies, how do they rank, and what is their purpose?

What are they? Consider these two definitions:

- **Prophecy:** “Reception and declaration of a _____ from the _____ through a _____ _____ of the Holy Spirit and the human instrument thereof.”¹

- **Prophēteúō:** “To prophesy ... To foretell things to come ... to declare truths through the inspiration of God’s Holy Spirit whether by prediction or otherwise ... To tell forth God’s message, hence the noun *prophētēs*, prophet, is the proclaimer, one who speaks out the counsel of God with the _____, _____, and _____ which spring from the consciousness of _____ in _____ and having received a direct message from Him to deliver. Thus one may prophesy without being a prophet in the strict sense of the word. A *prophētēs*, both in the Old Testament and New Testament, is not primarily one who foretells things to come, but who (having been taught of God) speaks out His will (Deut. 18:18; Isa. 1; Jer. 1; Ezek. 2; 1 Cor. 14:3).”²

How do they rank? We can set no _____ on the same standard with _____.

What is their purpose? 1 Corinthians 14:3 (NIV)—“But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their _____ and _____.”

Must know:

- Prophecies can be quite _____. They are by their _____ nature _____ (1 Cor. 13:9).
- Prophecies _____ be _____. Keep in mind how much easier it is to _____ than to _____ (Acts 17:11; Matt. 7:15).

Dr. Gordon Fee: “Despite the fact that the ministries of the Spirit can be _____ in the Christian community, Paul’s own deep appreciation for the central role of the Spirit in individual and corporate life will not allow for _____ by _____. Rather, the antidote for _____ is proper _____.”³

Concluding bottom line

Believers in Christ cannot be both _____ and _____.

1. *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, edited by Chad Brand, Charles Draper, Archie England (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), s.v. “prophesy.”
 2. S. Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, s.v. “prophēteúō.”
 3. Gordon D. Fee, *God’s Empowering Presence* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1994), 59.

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Group Session Seven

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: What exhortation is recorded in Colossians 4:17? (p. 142)

DAY 2: Compare 1 Thessalonians 3:12 to 2 Thessalonians 1:3. What answered prayer do you see reflected? (p. 146)

DAY 3: What did God tell the prophet Ezekiel to do before he spoke to Israel? (p. 150)

DAY 4: How did Paul describe the symbiosis in Colossians 1:29? (p. 157)

DAY 5: Who is in charge of providing what we need to do God's will? (p. 158)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: Have you found other people's contributions encouraging or discouraging lately? Explain. (p. 144)

DAY 2: How has God used others to encourage, train, or direct you? (p. 149)

DAY 3: Would you like to share your letter with your small group? (p. 153)

DAY 4: In what task could you use some equipping from the Scriptures? (p. 155)

DAY 5: From your experience, how are *preparing* and *repairing* distinct? (p. 159)

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Introduction

In our homework this week, we began to unravel the sacred parchment of the Second Letter to the Thessalonians. Six words from the center of chapter 1 will preoccupy us today: When the _____ is _____.

The lexical Greek word is *apokálupsis*: "_____, uncovering, _____, disclosure. One of three words referring to the Second Coming of Christ (1 Cor. 1:7; 2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7,13). The other two words are *epipháneia*, appearing (1 Tim. 6:14), and *parousía*, coming, presence (2 Thess. 2:1). *Apokálupsis*, a _____ and more comprehensive word, includes not merely the thing shown and seen but the _____, the unveiling of the same. The *epipháneiai*, appearances, are contained in the *apokálupsis*, revelation, being separate points or moments therein. Christ's first coming was an *epipháneia* (2 Tim. 1:10); the second, an *apokálupsis*, will be far more _____."¹

We'll invite the apostle Peter to come alongside Paul through his own inspired letter and help us broaden our grasp of those six words. Savor the NET Bible translation of 1 Peter 1:1-2:

From Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those _____
 _____ (in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
 the province of Asia, and Bithynia) who are chosen according to the
 foreknowledge of God the Father by being set apart by the Spirit for
 obedience and for sprinkling with Jesus Christ's blood. May grace and
 peace be yours in full measure!

Now read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Note three distinct time periods:

1. _____
2. A _____
3. When Jesus is _____

According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, when the Lord Jesus is _____ ...

- _____ will _____ to the “_____.”
- “Relief” in the Greek is _____. Find the term also in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 7:5-7. Reflect on this relief in view of Matthew 24:21-22.
- _____ will be assigned.
- _____ will occur (v. 10).
- He will be _____ in His _____ (v. 10; Rom. 8:18-19).

1. S. Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, s.v. “apokálupsis.”

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Group Session Eight

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

- DAY 1: What three sources of potential alarm did Paul list in 2 Thess. 2:2? (p. 166)
- DAY 2: What specific events occur before the Day of the Lord (2 Thess. 2:1-7)? (p. 171)
- DAY 3: What characteristic of the spirit of the antichrist is in 1 John 4:2-3? (p. 176)
- DAY 4: Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 alone, why are people perishing? (p. 182)
- DAY 5: What did Paul tell the Thessalonians to stand firm and hold onto? (p. 186)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

- DAY 1: Have you ever been duped by someone who proved to be an imposter? (p. 168)
- DAY 2: What will you be thankful to find missing in Christ's coming kingdom? (p. 172)
- DAY 3: Which historical rulers might qualify as types of antichrists? (p. 175)
- DAY 4: What do you think any process of sifting can be meant to accomplish? (p. 180)
- DAY 5: What do you think it means to keep yourself in the love of God? (p. 185)

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Introduction

As we approach our final week in our study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, we come to one of the most mysterious portions in the letters combined. We will discuss what we can know clearly and what we can at least know more about.

What was happening at their present time and is still happening in ours:

1. The working of the _____ of _____. The NIV translates the phrase "the _____ of lawlessness."
2. The _____ over the mystery of _____. Consider this quote from Dr. John Stott: "The restraint is both neuter and masculine, _____ and _____, a _____ and a _____."¹

The three most plausible identities of the restrainer:

- The _____ (He) and the work of the _____ (it).
- _____ (he) and the preaching of the _____ (it).
- _____ (he) and the _____/power of the _____ (it).²

What will happen before the Day of the Lord:

1. The _____ will be _____ of the _____ (v. 7b).
 2. The _____ will _____ (v. 3).
 3. The _____ of _____ will be revealed. (v. 3) The word translated “revealed” is the lexical Greek _____. Compare v. 9 where the word translated “coming” is _____. According to Dr. C. A. Wanamaker, “That person’s manifestation is a deceptive _____ or ‘_____’ of Jesus’ future coming.”³
- Mark 16:15: “_____ into all the world and _____ the _____ to the whole creation.”
 - 2 John 1:7 (ESV): “For many _____ have _____ out into the _____ ... Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

AND THEN ...

1. The Day of the Lord will _____ with the _____ of Christ.
2. The Lord Jesus will _____ the _____ one with His _____ and bring him to _____.

1. John Stott, *The Message of 1 & 2 Thessalonians* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991), 168.

2. *Ibid.*, 169–170.

3. Charles A. Wanamaker, *The Epistles to the Thessalonians: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), 245.

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Group Session Nine

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

● Principal Questions

DAY 1: What do 1 Thessalonians 5:25 and 2 Thessalonians 3:1 have in common? (p. 191)

DAY 2: What things are of most importance (1 Cor. 15:1-4)? (p. 198)

DAY 3: What command had Paul and his coworkers given the Thessalonians when they were still with them? (p. 199)

DAY 4: By what title is God called in 2 Thessalonians 3:16? (p. 205)

DAY 5: What thread embroiders together each greeting and benediction? (p. 208)

○ Personal Discussion Questions

DAY 1: Is the idea of receiving rather than achieving a shift for you or have you practiced this approach for years? (p. 194)

DAY 2: What are a few specific places you desire for the words of Christ that abide in you to arrive with you over the next month? (p. 198)

DAY 3: What is a destructive attitude you've seen go viral among believers? (p. 202)

DAY 4: How can you relate to fighting despair and depression over events God has allowed in your path? (p. 204)

DAY 5: What are some of the things going through your head on this final day? (p. 207)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction

In this final session, we will tie up our journey together with a string left dangling at the beginning of 2 Thessalonians 3, and the other left waiting at the end.

1. A _____ request for _____.
 - That the word of the Lord may _____ and be _____. Compare Psalm 147:15.
 - That we may be _____ from _____ and _____ people.
 - “Delivered”—Greek *rhúomai*: “from *rhúō*, to draw, _____ the ground. To draw or snatch from danger, rescue, deliver. This is more with the meaning of _____ to _____ than merely _____ from someone or something.”¹

Note the descriptions “wicked and evil.” The Greek meaning of the first word is particularly interesting. Greek *átōpos*—“from *a*, without, and *tópos*, _____ . _____ or _____ . Inconvenient, prejudicial, hurtful, evil, improper (Acts 28:6). Of persons: _____ , _____ (2 Thess. 3:2); of conduct: inconvenient, unsuitable, improper, wrong.”²

Consider what could be a _____ Instant _____ : “For _____ have _____ . But the _____ is _____ .” (ESV)

2. A significantly _____ . Imagine a handwritten version similar to this:

Ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῆ ἐμῆ χειρὶ Παύλου ... οὕτως γράφω
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν³

The benediction: The _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ be _____ .

1. S. Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, s.v. “*thúomai*.”

2. Ibid, “*átōpos*.”

3. F. F. Bruce, *1 and 2 Thessalonians*, Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 45 (Dallas: Nelson Reference and Electronic, 1982), 215–16.

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