

New Testament Handles

1 Thessalonians

1. Model of Gospel Ministry – Paul & Silas & Timothy

- a. Word-centric – 1:5, 2:3-4, 2:13
- b. In Holy Spirit – 1:5
- c. Bold – 1:5, 2:2
- d. Humble / Not Self-Serving – 2:5-6, 2:9
- e. Gentle / Affectionate – 2:7-8
- f. Impart lives in relationship, not just words – 2:8
- g. With Integrity (practice what we preach) – 2:10
- h. Earnest / Genuine – 2:11
- i. Not sugar-coating (neither the ongoing walk, nor the affliction coming) – 2:12, 3:4
- j. Praying – 1:2, 2:9-10, 2:11-13
- k. Continuing in Concern – 2:17-3:5
- l. Rejoicing in Growth – 3:6-9
- m. Ongoing Relationship – writing back with continued instruction / encouragement

2. Model of Gospel Response – the Thessalonians

- a. Received Gospel as from God with Joy of Holy Spirit – 1:6, 2:13
- b. Resulted in outworking of “faith, hope, love” in them – 1:3, 3:6, 4:9-10
- c. Immediate example to other believers – 1:7-9, 2:14
- d. Turned to God from idol worship – 1:9
- e. Eagerly awaiting the return of Jesus – 1:10
- f. Kindly relationship with Gospel ministers – 3:6

3. Excellent Christian Walk

- a. Holiness / Sanctification – 4:3-8
- b. Love of the Brothers – 4:9-10
- c. Honest Work – 4:10-11
- d. Christian Togetherness – 5:12-22
 - Honor your leaders – v. 12-13
 - Mutually spur one another on as needed with patience – v. 14-15
 - Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks continuously – v. 16-18

- Exercise Spiritual Discernment – v. 19-22

Note on v. 22 – “*every form/appearance of evil*” refers to engaging in “outward evil.” The word “form/appearance” is *eidos* (Gr). It is not the unseen evil in the heart, but the outward form that evil takes.

4. Resurrection & Day of the Lord

a. Resurrection / Rapture – 4:13-18

b. Day of the Lord – 5:1-11

v. 2 – will come like a thief in the night

v. 3 – involves sudden destruction, and no escape

v. 4-5 – Christians will not be overtaken by this “thief”

v. 9 – God has not destined the us for this wrath (1:10 – rescues us from wrath to come)

v. 10 – whether awake or asleep will be with the Lord

v. 11 – this teaching is designed to comfort the church