

1 Thessalonians: The Word of God

Psalm 119:105 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

“The Bible is God’s roadmap to hope.”
(Sam Rainer)

How Well Do You Know the Bible?

One of the best _____ I know was a member of my church in Greenfield, Tennessee. She lives in West Virginia now. Her name is Ruby Hope, and one of her best stories is about her Aunt Amelia.

When Ruby was ___ years old, during the _____ Depression, her Grandmother took her to visit her Great Aunt Amelia and Great Uncle Henry in rural South Carolina. Uncle Henry was sitting on the front _____ of an old farmhouse. Little Ruby was _____ as she was led by the hand up well-worn _____ and then into a _____ bedroom. Lying in the middle of a large bed was a thin elderly lady, her long, white _____ newly brushed over her pillow. There were two black women in the room who took care of her round the clock, for their charge was _____ and paralyzed.

Aunt Amelia sensed the child’s _____, and spoke gently to her. She asked Ruby to come closer and then issued her an interesting _____ - to find any part of the Bible she didn’t know by _____. Little Ruby visited her Great Aunt Amelia many times after that, and never once was she able to _____ her. When Ruby quoted a _____ of Scripture, Aunt Amelia immediately told her the book, chapter and verse. When Ruby said a book, chapter and verse, her blind aunt _____ it.

How was that possible?! As a young girl, Amelia had _____ the entire Bible - not realizing, of course, that one day she would be _____ and unable to read it for herself.

“Learn the Bible, child,” the elderly Presbyterian saint would say to her niece. “Keep God’s Word in your _____. You never know when you might _____ it. Keep the Word - as much of it as you can - in your _____. Then you will be ready no matter where God _____ you.”

How well do you and I know the Bible?

God’s Word

Teaching the _____ so that people would come to know Jesus as _____ is the theme of the second chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

Paul specifically addresses preachers and teachers, saying they are:

- “approved by _____ to be entrusted with the _____” (v. 4)
- “_____, like a _____ caring for her little children” (v. 7)
- “to share not only the Gospel, but their _____, as well” (v. 8)
- “to deal with people as a _____ deals with his children” (v. 11)
- “encourage, _____ and urge people to live lives worthy of God” (v. 12)

The Good News

The Gospel is: G_____

G_____

G_____

Takeaway

To the Christians in ancient Thessalonica, Paul wrote: “We thank God continually, because when you _____ the Word of God, which you heard from us, you _____ it not as the word of _____, but as it actually is, the Word of _____, which is at work in you who _____” (v. 13).

“Your word is a lamp to my _____ and a light for my _____” (Psalm 119: 105). *How well do you and I know the Bible?*

“They who study the Scriptures are willing to _____ the Lord *whither and when* He leads and dare not move *farther or faster* than they can perceive His light shining upon their _____. He leads them by a right _____, preserves them from a thousand snares and satisfies them that He is and will be their _____ even unto death.” (“Select Letters of John Newton,” p. 88)

