

1st & 2nd Thessalonians Salutation
Chapter 1:1(1st) & Chapter 1:1-2(2nd) – Lesson 1
“The Importance of One’s Friends and Peers”

An aspect of the zeroth Law of Thermodynamics is that when two objects with differing temperatures come into physical contact, heat transfers from the hotter object to the cooler one. This transfer continues until they reach thermal equilibrium at the point of contact, meaning their temperatures become equal and heat flow stops. If we parlay this scientific truth to our sphere of acquaintances, we will become like (i.e. same temperature) those around us. The Bible teaches us this truth as seen in the following verses: *“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed”* (Prov 13:20); *“A little leaven leavens the whole lump”* (Gal 5:9); *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”* (1Cor 15:33) With this understanding, we should endeavor to choose our friends wisely!

1. Who was with Paul when he wrote 1st & 2nd Thessalonians?
 - a. According to Acts 15:22-27 & 32 what type of man was Silvanus (Silas)?
 - b. What did Paul say about Timothy in Philippians 2:19 - 22?
 - c. By surrounding himself with (the) Silas and Timothy’s of the world, what may be the long-term benefit for Paul? (see Prov 27:17)

2. The Thessalonians are described as “*In God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*”. There is much to be said about being “*in Christ*.” Read John 15:4, Ephesians 1:3-4 and Colossians 2:9-10.
 - a. What do these verses speak about being “*in Christ*?”
 - b. Describe in your own words what it means to you to be “*in Christ*?”
 - c. Can the truth written in this study’s introduction be applied to those who are “*in Christ*?” Explain.
 - d. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and list the benefits highlighted by Paul that can be experienced by those that are “*In Him*?”

3. The very first words Paul wrote to the church are “*Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*”. What does this phrase mean?

4. You can take these words personally because it is what God pours from His heart into yours. How has God’s *grace* and *peace* transformed your life?

**Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (2Cor 6:14)
Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul. (Prov 22:24-25)**