

1 Thessalonians Series

Lesson #004

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Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbible.org

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

1 Thessalonians

Grace Orientation: Foundational Spiritual Skill





MACEDONIA

THRACE

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS

MARMARA SEA

ASIA

AEGEAN SEA

ACHAIA

CARIA

LYCIA

PAMPHYLIA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PAUL'S FIRST AND SECOND



1 Thess. 1:1, “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thess. 1:2, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

1 Thess. 1:3, “remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

1 Thess. 1:4, “knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.”

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εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteō*

pres act indic 1 plur

to give thanks, to be grateful

1. Etymology and definition.

Gratitude derives from the Latin, *gratus*, related to both grace, favor, kindness and the response to kindness.

2. Gratitude is expressed as appreciation, acknowledgment, appreciativeness, gratefulness, recognition, thankfulness. Failure to be grateful is the result of arrogance, self-seeking, and self-absorption, the idea that what is given is deserved. An attitude of entitlement is the opposite of gratitude.

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Rom. 1:21, “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

3. Gratitude therefore is directly related to grace orientation.

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Grace orientation begins by understanding that everything we are and have comes from God. That we deserve nothing and that there is nothing about us that impresses God.

Spiritual Adults (υἱοί, *huioi*, adult sons, Rom. 8:14)

PLG,
Rom. 5:5

ILM,
Gal. 5:14

O/C,
Heb. 12:2

+H,
James 1:2

Spiritual Adolescence (νεανῖσκοι, *neaniskoi*, 1 John 2:13)

Personal Sense of Your Eternal Destiny
Romans 8:16–17

Spiritual Childhood (τῆκνον, *teknon*)

Confess,
1 John 1:9

FHS, WHS,
Eph. 5:18

FRD,
2 Pet. 1:3, 4

G/O,
2 Pet. 3:18

D/O,
2 Pet. 3:18

Components of Grace Orientation

**Mastery of the
Details of Life**

**Relaxed
Mental Attitude**

**Humility
Enforced/Genuine**

Confess, FHS, WHS
1 John 1:9 Eph. 5:18

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4. Capacity for genuine gratitude develops from the understanding of salvation and what God has done for us.

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Psa. 118:21,

**“I shall give thanks to Thee,
for Thou hast answered me;
And Thou hast become my salvation.”**

5. As we learn about our salvation, gratitude expands toward God in direct proportion to doctrine assimilated in the soul.

6. Therefore gratitude begins with making doctrine the highest priority in life.

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Psa. 138:2,

**“I will bow down toward Thy holy temple,
And give thanks to Thy name for Thy lovingkindness
and Thy truth;
For Thou hast magnified
Thy word according to all Thy name.”**

7. Gratitude, therefore, is directed toward God. It begins with our understanding of salvation and develops through our understanding of God's character.

8. Gratitude then is directed toward God and is a barometer of our capacity for fellowship with God and becomes the basis for enjoying the joy of Christ which He has given us.

9. Scripture.

Psa. 7:17, “I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

9. Scripture.

Psa. 97:12, “Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones; and give thanks to His holy name.”

9. Scripture.

1 Thess. 5:18, “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Eph. 5:20, “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”

9. Scripture.

Col. 2:7, “having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

9. Scripture.

Col. 1:12, “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

10. For inner happiness, tranquility, stability and contentment, Bible doctrine must be more important than we are.

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11. The first enemy of gratitude is arrogance. The arrogance skills are self-centered, self-absorbed, self-indulgent, self-justification, and self-deceived.

Arrogance Skills

Self-absorption

Self-indulgence

Self-deification

Self-justification

Self-deception

