

November 24 Answers

- 1) Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica. The letter reads like a textbook on how to grow in **grace**. First, Paul praised them for **imitating** his behavior and the behavior of the churches in Judea which had suffered for the sake of the gospel (1 Thess 1:6–7, 14). This teaches us how important it is to find godly role **models** and imitate their example of righteousness and holiness. Second, Paul reminded them that as disciples of Jesus, they were destined for affliction and **persecution** (1 Thess 3:3). This teaches us that we can expect to **suffer** for the cause of Christ. Third, Paul commanded them to abstain from sexual **immorality**. This teaches us to avoid fostering **desires** in our relationships which should only be satisfied within the bounds of marriage. Fourth, Paul reminded those who had lost loved ones that we do not grieve as others who have no **hope**. Rather, we have confidence that Jesus will **raise** them to everlasting life, and we who are alive to hear the Lord's command will be caught up (**raptured**) with them in the air. This teaches us that God has not destined us for the outpouring of His **wrath** on the wicked during the Tribulation, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 5:9). Finally, Paul exhorted them to **continue** in all the ways of love and grace which they had received from him. This teaches us that loving others sometimes means **confronting** them.