

Kids' Chronicle

By Joe Sarnicola

My dear friends,

May the peace and grace that come from God be with you. When I say my prayers, I always remember you, especially because of the great hope you have shown that God has called us to holiness.

I have to admit that, when I was with you once before, you treated me and the people who were with me harshly. God charged us with the task of spreading the Gospel, and that is what we did. We did not try to flatter you by telling you what you wanted to hear.

We were honest in everything we did, and apparently our message troubled some of you. Yet I am confident you are able to see the love we showed you and the sincerity of our actions.

Having said that, I wanted to visit you again a number of times, but I was never able to do so. However, Timothy was able to make the journey, and he has since returned, telling us that you are living in faith and love. We say prayers of thanksgiving for that news.

In order to clear a few things up, I thought I should remind you of some of the expectations God has of us. Practice charity at all times. In other words, treat everyone with respect and courtesy. If you set a goal to live in peace with everyone, to be honest and hardworking, and to be kind to strangers, we could ask nothing better of you.

It is very important that you understand about those who have already



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

fallen asleep. I do not want you to be like the world, which does not have the hope that you do. Just as we believe that Jesus died and he rose again from the dead, God, through his son Jesus will gather together those who have fallen asleep. Those of us who are still alive, including everyone up until Jesus comes back for us, will not see Jesus before those who are now asleep.

The Lord will shout the order. The archangel will echo the command and the blast of the trumpets of God will fill the heavens. And God will come down from heaven. Then those who believed and are dead will rise up into heaven to be with him first. After that, we who have not yet passed on will join the others in clouds and we will all be with God together.

And we will be with him forever after that. Whenever you are discouraged, remember this. This is our hope.

Cross out the names of the books in the list below that are not found in the New Testament. Answers on page 9

Exodus	Matthew	John
Psalms	Acts	Revelation
Isaiah	Galatians	Job
Mark	Daniel	Romans
Joshua	Jude	Luke
Hebrews	Titus	James

1. How was Paul treated by the Thessalonians on his first visit?
2. What will happen when God comes down from heaven?

Which two other men helped Paul write his First Letter to the Thessalonians?

Send Answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Nov. 4, 1999. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was J.J. Pereira, a student at Our Mother of Sorrows School. J.J. correctly stated that readings during Mass are taken from one of the four Gospels, in addition to other readings from the Old Testament and New Testament.

Thessalonica was founded in 315 B.C. by one of the generals who served under Alexander the Great. The first letter to the Thessalonians is believed to be one of the first letters written by St. Paul, probably about 20 years after the death of Christ.

There were both Jews and Gentiles in Thessalonica, and Paul had sent Timothy ahead to report about the stability of the church there and to encourage the early Christians not to be discouraged. Several teachers had been giving the Thessalonians false information about their faith and they challenged the spiritual leadership of Paul, so Paul knew he had to address these problems in his letter.

He simply asked that he be judged according to his actions. He told the Thessalonians he was confident their sincere faith would lead them to follow the truth.

St. Luke is credited with writing one of the Gospels as well as the book of the Acts of the Apostles. A doctor by profession, and most likely of Greek nationality, he travelled with the apostle Paul on many of his missionary journeys.

Because Luke liked to include details in his writings, the Book of Acts is considered one of the most important records of the early church, and Luke's details have helped historians to date some of the events that he wrote about.

The Gospel According to Luke conveys a Jesus who is full of compassion and who cares about people who had been ignored or forgotten by the rest of the Jewish community at the time, namely the poor, women, the very sick and people other than Jews. Luke is the patron saint of doctors. We honor him on Oct. 18.

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