I. Introduction.

A. The Word of God is alive and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12)

B. God has given us the Word primarily to guide our steps not just for information. (Psalm 119:155)

II. Paul has chosen the letter as a means to disciple his people primarily here.

A. He prays that they might know the will of God and do it. He prays for their strength and that they might please God in all they do. He talks about putting on and putting off certain things in their spiritual life.

III. The needs of a new Christian.

A. The number one need is love. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

B. Protection. (1 Thessalonians 3:1-5, Acts 15:36)

C. Fellowship. (Hebrews 10:25)

D. Food - the Word of God. (1 Peter 5:2)

E. The ability to feed oneself - getting into the Word. (Jude 20-21)

F. Training - not only the what but the how. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

IV. Warning: telling is not teaching and listening is not learning.

A. To build something into the life for the long haul, it must be modeled.

B. All too often the last person the new convert gets is a pattern to look at.

Application questions

1. What can we learn about prayer from what Paul prays for the Colossians?

2. Which need of the new Christian is the most difficult for you? Explain.

3. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:1 and write it below. How does this verse contribute to work with new converts?