

LESSON 8
THE BOOK OF 2 THESSALONIANS
CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
SECOND SEMESTER

KEY VERSE: May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17) NIV

PRAYER FOCUS: Thank the Lord for His peace that passes understanding. Thank the Lord that He is coming back. Ask the Lord to show you how to balance between living today and yet looking for his imminent return.

SECOND THESSALONIANS

Author: Paul (also with greetings from Silvanus and Timothy)

Date of Writing: about A.D. 51 or 52 from Corinth, a few months after 1 Thessalonians

Purpose: To clear up the confusion about the second coming of Christ

Background: Many in the church were confused about the timing of Christ's return. Because of mounting persecution, they thought the day of the Lord must be imminent, and they interpreted Paul's first letter to say that the second coming would be at any moment.

Overview: A few months after Paul had written I Thessalonians, Paul received word that some had misunderstood Paul's teaching about the second coming. Many felt that it was "The Day of the Lord" so they had quite working and were just waiting!

After his greeting, he encourages them in the midst of persecution and trials and broaches the subject of Christ's return.

He tells them not to listen to rumors and reports that the day of the Lord has already begun. He spells out some very specific events that will happen as "The Day of the Lord" approaches and how to live in light of that.

DAY ONE:

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-11

1. Why did Paul give thanks for those at Thessalonica (1:3)? _____

2. Why is God "righteous" when He punishes the wicked (1:6-9)? _____

3. Who will receive God's punishment (1:8)? _____

What is that punishment? _____

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4. What is the goal of Paul's prayers for the Thessalonians? (1:12) _____

❖ **In what ways is the name of our Lord Jesus glorified in you?**

DAY TWO:

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

1. Who is the "man of sin" (2:3)? _____

What are various names he is known by in scripture? _____

(see Ps 5:6; Ez. 21:25; Dan. 7:8; Dan. 9:26; Dan. 11:21; Dan. 11:36; 1 John 2:22; Rev. 11:7)

2. What will happen before the Day of the Lord will come? _____

❖ **List any of these events that you see that are happening now.**

3. What clue is given in verse 4 that tells of an event that will happen before the Antichrist is revealed? _____

4. How would you describe the "mystery of lawlessness" (2:7)? _____

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5. What “powers” does the “lawless one” possess (2:9–10)? _____

❖ **How can you be alert to recognize the deception when it comes?**

6. What was “the lie” of Satan to Eve in the garden? (Gen. 3) _____

7. How do you think “the lie” spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 will be similar? _____

DAY THREE:
READ 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

1. What does Paul remind the Thessalonians that they were chosen for? 2:13) _____

2. On what basis does Paul remind us to “stand firm?” (2:14-15) _____

❖ **How does the Lord encourage you and give you hope?**

3. How can you share that hope with others? _____

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DAY FOUR:

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

“The second coming of Christ is more than a doctrine to examine and study; it is a truth to grip our lives and make us better Christians. It is not enough to know about His coming or to believe it; we must practice it in daily life. Unfortunately, some of the believers at Thessalonica, were abusing the doctrine of Christ’s return. In this final chapter, Paul exhorted them to change their ways. (Wiersbe)

1. What is the first activity that Paul encourages the Thessalonians to engage in?

❖ **How would you describe your prayer life?**

2. Give an example of something that you have requested of the Lord for a long time and saw that answer after many years.

3. What did Paul give as the reason that wicked and evil men opposed them? (3:2)

4. What is the promise we are given in 3:3?

DAY FIVE:

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-18

1. What is the rule Paul gives in 3:10 that would be a good rule to live by today?

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2. In verses 11-12, again Paul deals with staying busy, and minding our own business. A “busybody” is a gossip. What is the breeding ground for gossip?

3. How does God feel about gossip? (Proverbs 6:16; Proverbs 20:19)_____

❖ **Have you ever become “weary in well doing?”**_____

Explain_____

4. How did Paul tell the Thessalonians to act toward those who didn’t obey the instruction in this letter?

5. Why do you think he emphasized this?

6. Is it important today to “warn our brothers” when they are disobedient?
