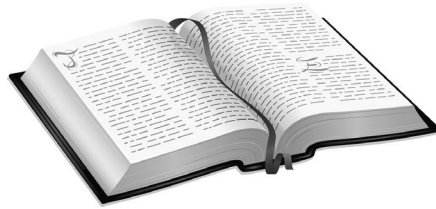


Bible Correspondence Fellowship



2 Thessalonians Lesson

Answer Sheet for English Standard Version (ESV)

The book of 2 Thessalonians was probably written a few months after Paul's first epistle to the same church. Like the first letter it addresses confusion the believers had about when the Lord would return and how they fit into God's plan for the last days. Apparently some had tried to deceive the Thessalonians to convince them that Christ had already returned and they were left behind to suffer tribulation and persecution. Paul encourages them because of their constant faith but also reprimands those who are lazy and not working to support themselves.

Before beginning this study you should take time to read through 2 Thessalonians from beginning to end. This will help you better understand each section in the context of the entire book. While doing the study, read each question carefully using the given Scripture reference to find your answer. May the Lord bless you as you study the book of 2 Thessalonians.

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: The apostle Paul

PLACE OF WRITING: Written from Corinth.

DATE OF WRITING: 2 Thessalonians was probably written in 50 or 51 AD while Paul was residing in Corinth for 18 months as recorded in Acts 18:11. It probably was written about six months after First Thessalonians.



PURPOSE, THEME AND SUBJECT MATTER OF THE LETTER: Thessalonica was the most prominent city in the area of northern Greece known as Macedonia. It was a bustling seaport and at the intersection of two major Roman roads. It had a population of about 200,000 at the time Paul visited it. It had a fairly large Jewish population and thus a synagogue where Paul preached for three Sabbath days (Acts 17:2).

After establishing the church in Thessalonica, Paul moved on to Berea, Athens and Corinth (Acts 17-18). While in Corinth he was joined by Timothy and Silas (Acts 18:5). They returned with news from the Thessalonian church which prompted Paul to pen the first letter of encouragement and instruction to them. Paul was thankful that the believers had remained faithful but apparently there were a number of issues that had arisen and Paul felt it was

necessary to correct their thinking. The issue of greatest concern was that there was confusion among the believers about the nature of the coming of the Lord and the resurrection of believers that had died. After Timothy and Silas returned from delivering the letter, apparently there were still questions among the believers about whether the persecution they were going through meant that they had missed the rapture and were going through the period of tribulation spoken of in the Old Testament. Paul explains in this second letter that certain things had to take place before Christ would return to bring forth judgment on the earth.

Please read the entire book of 2 Thessalonians. _____ Check.

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 – NASB

Chapter 1

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 1 _____ Check

GREETING AND THANKSGIVING

1. (v. 1:1) Who was together with Paul when he wrote this letter?

Silvanus, and Timothy,

2. (v. 1:1) How does Paul describe the Thessalonian church?

in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

3. (v. 1:2) What does Paul wish for them?

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. (v. 1:3) Why does Paul thank God for the Thessalonian believers?

Because their faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one for one another is increasing.

5. (v. 1:4) What does Paul glory in (boast – NIV) to the other churches about the Thessalonians?

Because of their steadfastness and faith in all their persecutions.

6. (v. 1:4) What were the Thessalonian believers going through when Paul wrote to them?

persecutions and afflictions

Note: In 2 Thessalonians 1:5 – 2:12 Paul is clarifying the confusion in the Thessalonian church about the persecution they were experiencing and how that related to the end times that are prophesied in the Old Testament. In 1 Thessalonians Paul reassures the believers that they, and those that had already died, would not be left behind when the Lord appeared to take the believers to be with Him. In that letter he introduced the truth of the “glorious appearing” of the Lord, or the event commonly called the “Rapture” in which the Church, the Body of Christ, would be removed from the Earth before the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

The Thessalonians must have still been confused, since they were experiencing persecution, and they could know from the Old Testament scriptures that a period of tribulation would precede the second coming of the Lord (Jeremiah 30:7). They must have believed that they were experiencing that period of history at that time. Paul explains to them that the trials they were experiencing were not part of the prophesied tribulation because certain things had to take place before that period of time could begin, specifically a personality he calls “the man of lawlessness” (KJV – Man of Sin) must appear. He is referring to the Antichrist figure that Daniel calls “the prince (ruler- NIV) that shall come” (Daniel 9:26) and the “king that exalts himself” (Daniel 11:36) and that John identifies as the “beast” in Revelation 13:1-10.

THE LORD'S VENGEANCE

7. (vs. 1:5) For what were the Thessalonians suffering?

the kingdom of God

8. (vs. 1:6) What will God do to those who persecute the Church (compare Romans 12:19)?

repay with affliction

9. (vs. 1:7) What will He do for those that are persecuted?

He will grant them relief

10. (vs. 1:7) When will God's judgment take place?

When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.

Note: Compare this description of the Lord's return with Revelation 19:12; Matthew 25:31; Daniel 7:9

11. (vss. 8-9) Describe the punishment for those that do not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus?

With flaming fire, vengeance on those who do not know God

and on those who do not obey the gospel. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the Lord.

12. (vs. 10) What will happen when the Lord comes?

He will be glorified in his saints and marveled at among

all who have believed.

13. (vss 11-12) Describe in your own words Paul's prayers for the Thessalonian believers. Paul and the other will pray for the church, that God may make them worthy

of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him.

according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (Answer will vary)

Chapter 2

THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (SIN)

Read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2: 1-12 _____ Check

1. (vs. 2:1) What is the topic Paul is about to discuss?
The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him.

2. (vs. 2:2) What reaction does Paul not want from the believers concerning this topic?
That they should not be shaken in mind or alarmed .

3. (vs. 2:2) What would the false reports be saying that might upset the believers?
That the day of the Lord has already come.

4. (vs. 2:3) What two things must take place before the day of the Lord (Christ – KJV) can take place?
The rebellion comes first, and man of lawlessness is revealed.

5. (vs. 2:3) How is the man of lawlessness (sin – KJV) described?
the son of destruction,

Note: The Greek word that is translated as “rebellion” in the NIV and “falling away” in the KJV is apostasia which can refer to a departure, in fact the root word from which this is derived is often translated “depart” in the New Testament. Furthermore, the Greek contains the definite article “the.” Therefore, the passage can be talking about “the departure” and Paul is most likely referring to the Rapture. Therefore, he is saying that the Antichrist cannot be revealed until the Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ takes place.

6. (vs. 2:4) Describe how the man introduced in verse 3 will behave.
He opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Note: Compare the description here with Daniel 9:27; 11:36-37, Matthew 24:15 and Revelation 13:5-8. It seems clear that they are referring to one and the same.

7. (vs. 2:5) Was this first time the Thessalonian believers heard this teaching? No

8. (vss. 2:6-7) Why has the Man of Lawlessness (Sin – KJV) not yet been revealed?
He who restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

Note: These verses tell us that the Antichrist cannot be revealed to the world until something which holds him back is removed. This could refer to one of two things. It might mean the Church, the Body of Christ, which must first be removed through the Rapture before the Antichrist will be known. It might also refer to the Holy Spirit who indwells believers, who will be removed at the time of the Rapture. The second option is a possibility because the phrase “the one who holds it back” (he who letteth – KJV) uses a masculine pronoun which usually refers to a personality. However, although the Holy Spirit will accompany the believers at the rapture, He can never be removed from the world, and He will play a prominent role in the events of the end times. In either case, it seems clear that Paul is saying that the Antichrist cannot be revealed until after the Rapture of the Church.

9. (vs. 2:8) What will happen to the lawless one (the Wicked – KJV)?
He will be revealed and Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth
and bring (him) to nothing

10. (v. 2:8) When will the overthrow of the Lawless One take place?
By the appearance of His coming.

11. (vss. 2:9-10) The Lawless One will do whose bidding while on Earth? What kinds of things will he do?
Satan's bidding. False signs and wonders, wicked deception

Note: Compare this description of the activity of the Antichrist with that of Revelation 13:13-14.

12. (vs. 2:10) Why will those that are deceived perish?
Because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

13. (vs. 2:11) What will be sent to those that do not believe the truth?
a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false

ENCOURAGEMENT TO STAND FIRM

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2:13-16 _____ Check

14. (vs. 2:13) How have the believers been chosen for salvation?
through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

15. (vs. 2:14) How did God call the Thessalonians?
through the gospel

16. (vs. 2:15) What does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to do?
stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us

17. (vs. 2:15) In what two ways had the teachings (traditions –KJV) been communicated to the Thessalonians?
by spoken word or by our (their) letter

18. (vs. 2:16-17) What blessing does Paul wish for the readers of the epistle?
Comfort for their hearts and that God establish them in every good work and word

Chapter 3

PAUL'S REQUEST FOR PRAYER

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 3:1-5 _____ Check

1. (vs. 3:1) What is Paul's first prayer request?
that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored,

2. (vs. 3:2) What else does Paul ask prayer for?
that we they) may be delivered from wicked and evil men.

3. (vs. 3:3) What is Paul confident the Lord will do?
He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

4. (vs. 3:4) What is Paul confident of?
That you are doing and will do the things that we command.

5. (vs. 3:5) What does Paul wish for the believers
The Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

WARNINGS AGAINST IDLENESS AND FINAL GREETINGS

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 3:6-18 _____ Check

6. (vs. 3:6) What command does Paul give the readers?
Keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness
and not in accord with the tradition that they received from Paul.

7. (vss. 3:7-8) What example did Paul and his companions set for the Thessalonians
believers?
They were not idle nor did they eat anyone's bread without paying for it.
Paul and the others worked night and day, that they might not be a burden to the Thessalonians.

8. (vs. 3:9) Why did Paul and his companions work the way they did?
To be an example to imitate.

9. (vs. 3:10) What was the rule that Paul set for the Thessalonians?
If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

10. (vs. 3:11) What report had Paul heard about some of the Thessalonians?
That some of them walked in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

11. (vs. 3:12) What command does Paul give to those people?
To do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

12. (vs. 3:13) What should the readers not become weary of?
Doing good.

13. (vs. 3:14) How should the church deal with someone that ignores Paul's instructions?
Have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.

14. (vs. 3:15) How should this person be regarded (counted – KJV)?
Not as an enemy, but as a brother.

15. (vs. 3:16) What is Paul's wish for the believers?
That the Lord of peace himself give them peace at all times in every way.

16. (vs. 17) What was the distinguishing mark of Paul's letters?
He wrote the greeting with his own hand.

17. (vs. 18) What final blessing does Paul give to the believers?
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

What Bible Version did you use for this lesson?: _____

Your questions or Comments:

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