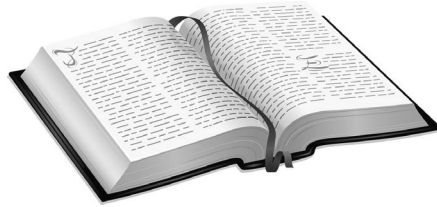


Bible Correspondence Fellowship



2 Thessalonians Lesson

Answer Sheet for New Living Translational (NLT)

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?

Silas, and Timothy

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

you who belong to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Grace and peace from God and Jesus

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

Because their faith is flourishing and their love for one another was growing.

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

about their endurance and faithfulness

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

persecutions and hardships

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?

for the kingdom of God

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

He will pay back those who persecute them

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

He will provide rest

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

when Jesus appears 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?

In flaming fire, he will bring judgment on those who don't know God.

They will be punished with eternal destruction,

forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

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

He will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe.

13. (vss 11-12) Describe in your own words Paul's prayers for the Thessalonian believers.

"asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call.

May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things

your faith prompts you to do.

(Answers 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 Jesus and how we will be gathered to meet him.

2. (vs. 2:2) What reaction does Paul not want from the believers concerning this topic?
They should not be shaken 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 begun

4. (vs. 2:3) What two things must take place before the day of the Lord (Christ – KJV) can take place?
a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed

5. (vs. 2:3) How is the man of lawlessness (sin – KJV) described?
the one who brings 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 will exalt himself and defy everything
that people call god and every object of worship.
He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is 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?

There is something holding him back and he can only be revealed
when his time comes

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)?

Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth
and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

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

When the lord comes in splendor

11. (vss. 2:9-10) The Lawless One will do whose bidding while on Earth? What kinds of things will he do?

Satan. He will have counterfeit power and signs and miracles.
He will use evil 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 refuse to love and accept the truth

13. (vs. 2:11) What will be sent to those that do not believe the truth?
a great deception

ENCOURAGEMENT TO STAND FIRM

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2:13-16 _____ Check

14. (vs. 2:13) How have the believers been chosen for salvation?
a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy
and through your belief in the truth

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

16. (vs. 2:15) What does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to do?
stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching
that had been passed on to them

17. (vs. 2:15) In what two ways had the teachings (traditions –KJV) been communicated to the Thessalonians?
in person and by letter

18. (vs. 2:16-17) What blessing does Paul wish for the readers of the epistle?
God's comfort and strength in every good then they said and did

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 Lord's message will spread rapidly
and be honored wherever it goes,

2. (vs. 3:2) What else does Paul ask prayer for?
that he (and his companions) will be rescued from wicked and evil people,

3. (vs. 3:3) What is Paul confident the Lord will do?
Strengthen them (Thessalonians) and guard them from the evil one

4. (vs. 3:4) What is Paul confident of?
That they were doing and will continue to do the things Paul commanded them to do.

5. (vs. 3:5) What does Paul wish for the believers
"May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from 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?
Stay away from all believers who live idle lives
and don't follow the tradition they received[from Paul

7. (vss. 3:7-8) What example did Paul and his companions set for the Thessalonians believers?
They worked hard day and night so as not to be a burden to any of them

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

9. (vs. 3:10) What was the rule that Paul set for the Thessalonians?
Those unwilling to work will not get to eat."

10. (vs. 3:11) What report had Paul heard about some of the Thessalonians?
some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business.

11. (vs. 3:12) What command does Paul give to those people?
settle down and work 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?
Stay away from them so they will be ashamed.

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

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

16. (vs. 17) What was the distinguishing mark of Paul's letters?
They were in his own handwriting

17. (vs. 18) What final blessing does Paul give to the believers?
"May 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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