

A workbook aid for studying

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
THESSALONIANS

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PREFACE

This study book is intended to aid a Bible class in the study of Paul's epistle to the Thessalonians. The material herein will not take the student on a verse-by-verse analysis of the text, but is intended to bring attention to significant portions of the text. Rather than providing textual insight from the writer, the booklet has been designed with questions to provoke thought and further study on the student's part, so that principles and lessons applicable for the Christian's life can be learned.

The usefulness of the material, and the success of the Bible class is primarily dependent upon the preparation which is given by each participant. Verse references from 2 Thessalonians are provided with each question. These are given as a starting point for answering the questions. Seldom will a question be fully answered and all the relevant points of a discussion exhausted by the given verses. Students are encouraged to look beyond the designated texts for related passages which will help to answer questions and reveal the lessons to be learned from the inspired record. Some questions given may require diligent investigation on the student's part to completely answer.

It is my hope that the questions provided will touch on all the important lessons which can be gleaned by the child of God today from these books. However, the class should not be limited to these questions. Perhaps segments of text which the given questions do not directly deal with, or detailed points which are found in the text will provoke questions on the student's part. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. Though the intent of this class material is to benefit us for Christian living today, the class should also be conducted in such a manner that we also come to a better appreciation of the events and customs which are found in the times of old.

May this workbook be used to the glory of God and the strengthening of saints.

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Encouragement In Persecutions

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-1:12

"Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power." (1:11)

1. How does the report which Paul gives of the Thessalonians in this letter compare with what was given in the former letter? (1:3-4)
2. Investigate the word "*bound*" and discuss the meaning of it. Why does Paul "*boast*" about them? (1:3-4)
3. How are the Christian's present suffering an "*evidence*" or "*token*" of the judgment to come? (1:5-7)

"...manifest token..." (KJV)
"...clear sign..." (BBE)
"...manifest evidence..." (NKJV)
"...plain token..." (WEY)
"...token..." (YLT)
4. Comment on the reversal of roles spoken of. Can you think of any other Bible texts that mention the same? (1:6-7)
5. Discuss the nature of punishment which the wicked will receive. (1:8-9)

6. Two identifying marks are given regarding those who will be subject to God's wrath. Discuss both. (1:8)

7. What will the righteous do on the Day of the Lord's return? (1:10)

8. The apostle's prayer for the Thessalonians is that they might be counted worthy. Have they not already been counted worthy? (1:11)

9. What is "*the good pleasure of His goodness*"? What is "*the work of faith*"? What relationship do these share? (1:11)

10. How will the name of Jesus be glorified in us? How will we be glorified in Him? (1:12)

Lessons and principles:

[List and discuss what we can learn from this study to better our service before the Lord.]

The Coming Of The Day Of The Lord

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-2:17

"So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." (2:8)

1. What doctrine about the Lord's return came to Thessalonica? Is this false doctrine mentioned elsewhere? Discuss some of the inherent troubles associated such a doctrine. (2:1-2)
2. What two things must occur before the Lord's return? (2:3)
1) _____ 2) _____
3. Two names are used to describe a source of evil which would come. Identify and discuss these names. (2:3)
4. What is revealed to us about the conduct of the "*man of sin*". (2:4, 9-10)
5. When will the "*man of sin*" be revealed? (2:3, 5-7)

6. How long will the “*man of sin*” continue his wickedness? (2:8)

7. Who will follow the “*man of sin*”? Discuss the end of those who will do so. (2:9-12)

8. How had God chosen the Thessalonians for salvation? (2:13-14)

9. Jesus spoke against the keeping of traditions (**Matthew 15:1-9**), and yet Paul here compels the Thessalonians to “*stand fast and hold the traditions*”. What’s the difference? (2:15)

10. What benefits has the Christian from God through Christ Jesus? How does our relationship with the Lord affect daily life? (2:16-17)

Lessons and principles:

[List and discuss what we can learn from this study to better our service before the Lord.]

Final Exhortations To The Church

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-3:18

"And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command." (3:4)

1. Discuss the particulars of Paul's prayer request. **(3:1-2)**
2. Why did Paul have confidence concerning the Thessalonians obedience? **(3:3-4)**
3. What does it mean to have our hearts directed "into the love of God and into the patience of Christ"? **(3:5)**
4. For what causes should fellowship be withdrawn from one? **(3:6)**
5. Describe the example that Paul and his companions left for the Thessalonians. What "authority" does the apostle admit he and his companions had? **(3:7-9)**
6. How might a command like: "*If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat*" be fulfilled? What are some implications of this command? **(3:10)**

7. What is a busybody? How were these busybodies being sustained? **(3:11-12)**

8. How does the exhortation, “...*do not grow weary in doing good*” fit into this context? **(3:13)**

9. What is the Bible pattern for discipline in the church? **(3:14-15)**

10. Consider the statement, “...*may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.*” **(3:16)**

11. What is significant about the “...*salutation of Paul with my own hand...*”? **(3:17)**

Lessons and principles:

[List and discuss what we can learn from this study to better our service before the Lord.]