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II THESSALONIANS

STUDY GUIDE



II THESSALONIANS

SCRIPTURE READING

II Thessalonians

THEME

The theme of this letter is: "The day of the Lord." Some were teaching that the day of the Lord had already come, so Paul wrote to correct this erroneous teaching and to give insight into when the day of the Lord would come.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Paul wrote this second letter to the Thessalonian church to correct error and to encourage the faithful.
- B. It appears that the Thessalonian believers were constantly confronted with persecution and discouraging conflict.
- C. Paul wants to be certain that these believers know the truth, especially concerning the "day of the Lord."

II. CHAPTER ONE

- A. Like I Thessalonians, this letter also appears to be a joint compilation of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy. (II Thessalonians 1:1)
- B. This letter is addressed to the church of Thessalonica, which is identified with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (II Thessalonians 1:1)
- C. Paul and his companions greet the Thessalonian church with grace and peace, which come from Father God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (II Thessalonians 1:2)
- D. Paul declared that he was always obligated to thank God for the Thessalonian believers. He said that their faith had increased beyond the ordinary and that the love they demonstrated toward one another was excessively abundant. (II Thessalonians 1:3)
- E. Paul said that he and his companions boasted of the Thessalonian believers to other churches. (II Thessalonians 1:4)

- F. They boasted of the faith and patience demonstrated by the Thessalonian believers while they endured persecution and tribulation. (II Thessalonians 1:5)
- G. To indicate the righteous judgment of God, these believers would be deemed entirely worthy of the kingdom of God, for which they had suffered. (II Thessalonians 1:6)
- H. Paul told the Thessalonian believers that God's justice would repay those who had oppressed them; He would repay the oppressors with oppression. (II Thessalonians 1:7)
- I. Paul encouraged those who were oppressed to relax, as he and his companions were doing, in the revelation of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who would come with His mighty angels. (II Thessalonians 1:7)
- J. These messengers of the Lord will come in blazing fire to give retribution to those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. (II Thessalonians 1:8)
- K. These rejectors of God and the gospel will be punished with everlasting death and removed from the presence, glory, and power of the Lord. (II Thessalonians 1:9)
- L. This event will occur when Jesus comes to be glorified in His saints and admired by all who believe. Paul took comfort in knowing that the Thessalonians who believed did so because of his witness for Jesus. (II Thessalonians 1:10)
- M. Paul declared that he always prayed for these who had received the Lord as a result of his preaching. He prayed that they would be considered worthy of the invitation of God and that they would fulfill every desire of goodness and every work of faith, with power. (II Thessalonians 1:11)
- N. The answer to Paul's prayer would result in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ being glorified in these believers and the believers being glorified in Him. (II Thessalonians 1:12)

III. CHAPTER TWO

- A. Paul appealed to the Thessalonian believers by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gathering of the believers to Him. (II Thessalonians 2:1)

- B. His appeal is that they not be quickly disturbed in their minds, nor frightened by spirit, or something said, or letter (that has supposedly come from Paul) saying that the day of the Christ is about to appear. (II Thessalonians 2:2)
- C. Paul tells these believers not to allow anyone to deceive them concerning the day of the Lord. (II Thessalonians 2:3)
- D. Before the day of the Lord can come, there must first be a defection from the truth, which will reveal the person of sin--the son of destruction. (II Thessalonians 2:3)
- E. He will oppose and exalt himself over all that is related to God or that is worshipped. (II Thessalonians 2:4)
- F. He, in the manner of God, will sit in the temple of God to demonstrate that he is God. (II Thessalonians 2:4)
- G. Paul reminded the Thessalonian believers that when he was with them, he told them about this event. (II Thessalonians 2:5)
- H. Paul told these believers that they knew what was preventing the revelation that would occur at the proper time. (II Thessalonians 2:6)
- I. Paul declared that the mystery of wickedness was already active, but the restrainer is now restraining until removed from the midst. (II Thessalonians 2:7)
- J. When the restrainer is removed, the lawless will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy with the breath of His mouth and immobilize with the manifestation of His arrival. (II Thessalonians 2:8)
- K. This lawless one will appear with the effectiveness of Satan. He will appear with power, miracles, lying signs, and every delusion of injustice. (II Thessalonians 2:9)
- L. With these deceptive wonders, this lawless one will deceive those who are doomed for destruction because they did not receive the truth of God's love, whereby they could be saved. (II Thessalonians 2:10)

- M. Because they refused to believe the truth, God will send to them enough deception to make them believe a lie so that they might be condemned. This condemnation will come to all who did not believe the truth but regarded unrighteousness as acceptable. (II Thessalonians 2:11-12)
- N. Paul called the Thessalonian believers “beloved of the Lord” and told them that he was under obligation always to give thanks to God for them. God had chosen them from the beginning for salvation through purity of the spirit and faith in the truth. (II Thessalonians 2:13)
- O. The way God called the Thessalonian believers was through the gospel that Paul preached to them. They were called to obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. (II Thessalonians 2:14)
- P. Paul encouraged the Thessalonian believers to persevere and to retain the precepts that they had been taught either by word or by his letter. (II Thessalonians 2:15)
- Q. Paul calls for the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father, Who has loved them and given unto them everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, to comfort the Thessalonian believers’ hearts and to establish them in every good word and deed. (II Thessalonians 2:16-17)

IV. CHAPTER THREE

- A. Paul asked the Thessalonian believers to pray for him and his companions, that the word of the Lord may go forth without interference and that it may be esteemed glorious, just as it is with them. (II Thessalonians 3:1)
- B. He also asked them to pray for their deliverance from evil people who desired to hurt them. Not everyone was persuaded that the gospel message was true. (II Thessalonians 3:2)
- C. Paul declared that the Lord is trustworthy and that He would establish them and preserve them from evil. (II Thessalonians 3:3)
- D. Paul was convinced that these believers did and would do whatever he directed them to do. (II Thessalonians 3:4)

- E. Paul requests that the Lord direct the hearts of these Thessalonian believers into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (II Thessalonians 3:5)
- F. In the name of Jesus Christ, Paul commanded the Thessalonian believers to abstain from associating with any brother who lived contrary to accepted practices and did not follow the doctrines given unto them by Paul and his companions. (II Thessalonians 3:6)
- G. According to Paul, the Thessalonian believers knew they should follow his example because he and his companions did not participate in unacceptable practices. (II Thessalonians 3:7)
- H. Paul and his companions did not take advantage of the Thessalonian believers by eating without paying for their food. Paul and his companions worked day and night so that they would not be a financial burden to others. (II Thessalonians 3:8)
- I. Paul knew that he and his companions had the right to receive from those to whom they ministered, but they chose to be examples for the Thessalonian believers to follow. (II Thessalonians 3:9)
- J. While Paul was with the Thessalonians, he had given them this mandate--"Anyone who does not work should not eat." (II Thessalonians 3:10)
- K. Paul had heard that some who lived among the Thessalonian believers conducted themselves contrary to acceptable practices. They did not work and intruded into other people's affairs. (II Thessalonians 3:11)
- L. Paul made an appeal to these believers; he urged those who were living contrary to acceptable practices to work quietly and to eat their own food. (II Thessalonians 3:12)
- M. Paul encouraged the Thessalonian believers not to become weary or discouraged while doing what was right. (II Thessalonians 3:13)
- N. Paul instructed the Thessalonian believers to mark the person who refused to obey the instructions given in this letter and not to associate with him that he may repent. (II Thessalonians 3:14)

- O. He told them not to treat the violator as an enemy but to admonish him as a brother. (II Thessalonians 3:15)
- P. Paul called for the Lord of peace to give peace to these believers always in all ways, then said, "The Lord be with all of you." (II Thessalonians 3:16)
- Q. Paul declared that his greeting to the Thessalonian believers was written with his own hand, which indicated that the letter was authentic. (II Thessalonians 3:17)
- R. Paul concluded this letter in his usual manner--"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

V. SUMMARY

- A. The theme of this second letter to the Thessalonian believers is: "The day of the Lord."
- B. The purpose of this letter was to correct error and to encourage the faithful.
- C. In chapter one, Paul reveals the hardships and perseverance of the Thessalonian believers. He assures them that God would vindicate them.
- D. In chapter two, Paul deals directly with the erroneous teaching concerning the day of the Lord and vaguely speaks of the Antichrist.
- E. In chapter three, Paul expresses his confidence in the Thessalonian believers and gives instructions concerning those who do not follow acceptable practices.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The Thessalonian church was born in adversity and experienced much persecution, yet many believers remained faithful to the Lord.
- B. From its beginning, the Church has constantly been confronted with erroneous doctrines; consequently, it is imperative to search the Scriptures and to distinguish between the doctrine of God and the doctrine of men.

- C. The day of the Lord is as certain as the Lord Himself. Jesus will return to this earth; therefore, we must be properly prepared, anticipating the coming of the Lord to gather his saints, and the coming of the Lord to set up His kingdom on earth.
- D. Although the Antichrist is certainly going to appear and deceive many, we must not place our attention on the Antichrist; we must focus on the Christ.
- E. Do not look for the false; expectantly watch for the real!