



# I and II Thessalonians

## Lesson 2 Chapter 2 and 3

*In Acts 9, God told Ananias to go to the house of Judas and ask for a man named Saul. Ananias knew exactly who Saul was and informed the Lord that Saul was a dangerous man who was harming the saints. But the Lord gave instructions for Ananias to go anyway and lay hands on Saul so he could regain his sight. God also told Ananias that Saul was a chosen instrument to bear the name of Christ to many people, and that he would experience much suffering for the name of Christ. Ananias obeyed, and God was true to His word. Saul of Tarsus became Paul the Apostle, and since his conversion Paul had suffered immensely in declaring the gospel. On his second missionary journey, after being beaten and imprisoned in Philippi, Paul left the area and went to Thessalonica. He spent 3-5 weeks there teaching in the synagogue from the Old Testament that Jesus was the resurrected Messiah that their nation and the Gentiles had been promised. Eventually, many of the Jews*

*who were jealous of Paul's popularity stirred up a riotous mob. Because of the continued danger to Paul's life, his friends sent him on to Berea, then to Athens, and eventually to Corinth. While in Corinth, because Paul couldn't return at that time to Thessalonica to check on the new church there, he wrote a letter to them to inform them of his situation, to check on their welfare, and answer some critical questions that he hadn't had the time to address when he was with them. In chapters 1-2 of that letter, he commends them for their faithfulness in continuing to spread the gospel even under extreme persecution and suffering. He reaffirms his deep love for them and expresses how thankful he and his helpers are that their love for each other continues to grow. The message of the gospel had taken root in their town, and Paul could hardly contain his joy at hearing of their fidelity to Christ.*

### READ CHAPTER 2

1. *Paul was constantly having to defend his apostleship and authority to bring the gospel due to his background. From 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, identify some of the details Paul gives about his ministry to them that he believes validates his sincerity and authenticity as an apostle of Christ.*

2. *How does Paul's method in preaching the gospel influence the Thessalonians? Vs. 13-15*
  
3. *What does Paul identify as the main problem his adversaries have with him? 2:16*
  
4. *Paul hadn't had sufficient time with the Thessalonian believers to establish their faith so his goal was to return to Thessalonica and spend more time with them. Why hadn't he been able to do that, and what might have been the specific problem? 2:17-20*

### READ CHAPTER 3

5. *Because Paul wasn't able to return to Thessalonica, what did he do to continue to disciple these new believers? 3:1-2*
  
6. *What was his greatest concern for them? 3:3-5*
  
7. *What kinds of tactics does Satan use to tempt believers? Matthew 16:23; Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, 4:4, and 11:3, 14; Genesis 3:1; Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1. What are some ways you sense him trying to sway you to unbelief?*



The Greek term for Satan is *Satanas* which means adversary, or to lie in wait or oppose. The term is used 36 times in the NT. Satan is also referred to 33 times with the Greek term *diabomus* which means the slanderer. There is no discernible distinction between the terms. There are several other names identified with Satan that more fully distinguish his activity such as “Abaddon” or “Apollyon” (Revelation 9:11) which both mean the destroyer. Numerous other names identify his character such as “the deceiver of the whole world,” “father of lies,” “a murderer,” “the ancient serpent,” etc. He is also identified in the NT as the intelligent “ruler of this world” in which he dominates over the “sons of disobedience.”  
 ~Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia

8. *What news about the believers in Thessalonica did Timothy bring Paul, and what impact did that have on him? 3:6-10*
  
9. *What kinds of struggles was Paul experiencing in Corinth around the time Timothy brought him news about the church in Thessalonica? Acts 18:1-7*
  
10. *What did Paul pray that God would do in the lives of the believers in Thessalonica? 3:11-13*
  
11. *What event does Paul emphasize in 1:10, 2:19, and now in 3:13?*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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