



I and II Thessalonians

Lesson 5 II Thess. Chapter 1-2

In his first letter to the Thessalonian church, Paul expressed great joy at their continuance in the gospel even under dire situations of persecution. He had promised them that Christ was going to return and set things right, but the chronology of that event was unknown. But he did instruct them in the details he had received from Christ about the rapture and the events surrounding the time of His return. Unfortunately, that information over time had become distorted. But the teaching that Christ gave in reference to His return, which was recorded by Matthew in chapter 24 of his gospel, was undoubtedly well known by Paul. Eventually there would be much more teaching surrounding these events when the Apostle John received his visions on the island of Patmos and recorded them in the book of Revelation, but that wasn't going to become available for many more years.

Somehow shortly after they received the first letter from him, Paul received word back from Thessalonica about new confusion regarding

his teaching about Christ's imminent return and the day of the Lord judgment. Also, false information had infiltrated their church supposedly coming from him, and now two specific problems had arisen because of it that he needed to address. The first was that, because of the harsh persecution, many were severely panicked that the day of the Lord had begun. Because of this, they were causing hysteria within the church with this wrong information. The second problem was that due to the frenzy, many were severely distressed thinking they had missed the rapture and now were living in the time of God's wrath. Therefore, they quit their jobs and just began living off others. These things were causing much upset within the church that previously had been progressing in their faith so beautifully. This inactivity was not good for the health of the believers or the church as a whole, and Paul needed to correct it. But false doctrine is what the enemy really wants to infiltrate within the Lord's people so they become discouraged and unity is destroyed.

READ II THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1

- 1. The believers at Thessalonica knew that the day of the Lord was a day of judgment against evil so they wrongly thought the evil and persecution they were experiencing was a sign that the day of the Lord was happening right then. How does Paul first explain their current persecution to show it is not the day of the Lord? Vs. 3-5*

2. *When will their relief from that persecution come? Vs. 6-7a*

3. *After assuring them that the suffering they are now facing is not the final judgment, how does Paul describe the coming of Christ and His judgment of those who refused to believe in Him? 1:7-10*

4. *In light of that coming judgment, what does Paul pray on behalf these believers in vs. 11, and what is the purpose behind that prayer for them in vs. 12?*

READ CHAPTER 2

5. *According to chapter 2:1-2, why is Paul writing to these people again so soon after his previous letter?*



The phrases in verse 2 “shaken from your composure” (NAS) means to be agitated or disturbed in the mind, and “nor to be troubled” (KJV) means to wail, or to be frightened. Paul is saying they are not thinking clearly because of the extreme agitation and fear the information they received has caused them. This irrational reaction is what leads to his further strong correction in the chapter 3.

6. *What 2 major events does he describe to them that will happen as signs that must take place before the Christ's final return? Vs.3-5*



*The word apostasy, *aphistemi*, is made up of the preposition *apo* or “from” and *histemi* which means “to place or to stand.” In its strict sense, it means to place oneself away from or to stand away from someone. It does not necessarily mean to remove oneself from someone or somewhere. This departing from someone does not imply wholehearted agreement or disagreement, but it is separating oneself for the purpose of not incurring the dangers of that association. This seems to be the meaning here. In those days, there were a great number of people who were associating with the Christians but were not necessarily themselves believers. But when persecution arose against the Christians, these people did not want to maintain the association any longer since they were fearful that they would be considered sympathetic to Christians and would themselves be persecuted. Another passage similar to this one is 1 Timothy 4:1 which also refers to the end times when we are told that “some will fall away from the faith” or better still, “shall stand aloof from the faith.” In this passage in 2nd Thessalonians Paul does not say from whom or what they stand off. If this were referring to falling away from the true faith, Paul would not have made the statement in Romans 8:38-39, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

~Hebrew/Greek Key Word Study Bible

7. *How does Jesus describe this in Matthew 24:10-13?*

8. *What causes the apostasy (Matthew 24:12), and why will that lead to the “man of lawlessness” being revealed? 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8*

9. *How does Paul describe the “man of lawlessness” and his activity, and what will finally stop him? Vs. 7-10*
10. *How does Paul identify those who follow the “man of lawlessness”? 10-12*
11. *How does Paul reassure the Thessalonians that they are not part of that wickedness, and what does he tell them to do now? Vs. 13-15*
12. *Now that he has cleared up the first problem they were having, how does he pray for them? Vs 16-17*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
