



ST. PAUL PREACHING TO THE THESSALONIANS

For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day
... we preached unto you the gospel of God. . . . (I Thessalonians 2: 9)

The Second Letter to the Thessalonians

Flourish Women's Bible Study 2025



Overview

Skim 2 Thessalonians

1. Who wrote this letter? Why do you think it was written?
2. Underline or note how many times 'Lord Jesus Christ' appears in this letter.
3. Note characteristics (attributes) of God as you look through the letter.

Study 1: Hope in Persecution

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We ought always to thank God for you, broth-

ers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

2 Thessalonians 1:1–4 (NIVUK)

1. What are the authors thankful for? (vv. 3–4)
2. If a letter was written to you, what would God be thanked for?
3. List the characteristics of God highlighted in verses 5–7.

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5–10

⁵All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you

who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be

punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled

at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. **2 Thessalonians 1:5–10 (NIVUK)**

4. How do verses 5–7 help you in times of trouble?
5. Compare those who are disobedient and those who believe when the Lord Jesus is revealed from Heaven. (vv. 8–10) What is your response to this?
6. What do you think ‘obey the gospel’ means?

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

¹¹With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹²We pray this so that

the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 (NIVUK)

7. What do the authors of the letter pray? Who could you pray this for?

Study 2: The Day of the Lord

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12

2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵Don’t you remember that when I was with

you I used to tell you these things? ⁶And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth

and so be saved. ¹¹For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹²and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NIVUK)

1. What 'alleged' teaching had the Thessalonians believed? (v. 2)
2. Describe the 'man of lawlessness'. (vv. 3–12)
3. What will happen when the lawless one will be revealed? (v. 8)
4. What will happen to those who refuse to *love* the truth? (vv.10–12; perhaps reflect on why the word 'love' rather than 'believe'.)
5. What steps might you take to see a friend love the glorious truth?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

¹³But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and

hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–17 (NIVUK)

6. What did God do and what encouragement do you take from verses 13–14?
7. How are the Thessalonians to stand firm? (v. 15) What can you learn from this so you don't get swept away by false teaching?
8. Who could you pray the prayer in verses 16–17 for? Spend some time praying in your group now. How could you let them know that you prayed this prayer?
9. Contrast 'good hope' (v. 16) and hope the world offers?

10. What are you thankful for after reading through chapter 2?

Study 3: No Time for Idleness

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5

³As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ²And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

2 Thessalonians 3:1–5 (NIVUK)

1. What did Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray for? (vv. 1–2)
2. What did Paul encourage the Thessalonians with? (vv. 3–5)

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."
¹¹We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

2 Thessalonians 3:6–13 (NIVUK)

3. (a) What does it mean to be idle and disruptive? (vv. 6, 11)

(b) What do you think is on view for work here?
4. Do you think Paul is saying it's wrong to support ministry workers? (vv. 7–12; cf. 1 Timothy 5:17–18)
5. What areas of your life do you tend toward idleness?

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14–18

¹⁴Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be

with all of you.

¹⁷I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **2 Thessalonians 3:14–18 (NIVUK)**

6. How were the Thessalonians to respond to those who didn't obey the instruction in this letter? What can we learn from this?

7. Compare the peace the Lord gives with how the world thinks about peace.

Reflection

As you reflect on the whole of 2 Thessalonians:

1. What will you thank God for? Who could you share this with?
2. What is one thing you'd like to change?

Spend some time in your group praying about these things.

