

Paul's Letters to the **Thessalonians**



Lesson 8-Faith, Love, His Fiery Coming & 1000 Years **Focus: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

- **Introduction to 2nd Thessalonians:** *This letter was likely written in the same year as 1st Thessalonians, only coming within a matter of several months after the first one. That would have been the year, A.D. 51, while Paul was still in Corinth along with Silas and Timothy (see 2 Thess. 1:1 and Acts 18:1,5). The Thessalonians had now also been exposed to some various false doctrines regarding the imminence of Christ's coming; Paul needed to clarify these things. Either that, or Paul suddenly felt the need to give them a large dose of preventative medicine regarding the topic of the second coming! Either way, Paul deals greatly with the subject of the 2nd Coming in this Epistle, chapters 1 and 2 especially! Chapters one and two deal largely with some doctrinal issues, including the relationship of the Anti-Christ figure to the second coming of Christ and our gathering together unto Jesus Christ. In the final chapter, Paul deals with some really practical living issues for the believers! Apparently, some were living idle lives and Christ's followers were being encouraged not to support such evil behavior! This problem appears to have existed a bit at the time of Paul's first letter (1 Thess. 4:11,12), but now has grown worse. It might also be surmised that perhaps some of these idlers were trying to justify their course by hiding behind the false idea that Christ would appear at any time, so why should they work? Paul dealt strongly with this issue! If these people had received any such type of letter, supposed to have been from the apostles, about such an idea, they were not to receive that (2 Thess. 2:1,2). Paul also may have been clarifying that although Christ will come "as a thief" to those who are wicked (which he previously explained in his first letter), still none of us were to be idle. Instead, we are to work and to do our daily part to live and support life, even as Paul and the other apostles modeled for us! Daily life and financial needs should be cared for inasmuch as we can possibly do. We should be faithful in all things, including our work and care for others! Be must be useful, and practical! **One thing is clear from this overall information—false doctrines about the knowledge of God will produce incorrect living and expectations for the future!** Therefore, we should always labor to understand correctly all the teachings of God!*
- **Warm Greetings and Thanksgiving in God (v.1-4)**
 - Paul and his fellow workers in the gospel were so thankful for God's great work in the lives of those believers in Thessalonica! They wished them true grace and peace from our Lord God above!
 - (v.3,4) It seems that the more these faithful saints were persecuted for their faith, the more their love was growing! They were seeking the Lord in all things and loved God truly for His eternal goodness! **Their faith was growing exceedingly!** This is an experience that all Christians should have! To be seeking the Lord and to be continually growing and advancing in their faith experience with God. Through tribulations, they endured well as good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ! **As their faith was strong in God,**

their love was abounding! How wonderful it was! Strong faith and great love seem to go hand in hand! Real faith is pure and aids in the production of warm Christian love in our hearts and lives by the seeking of God. This example, the apostles boasted of!

➤ **A Powerful and Fiery Coming of Christ in Judgment upon Sin and Sinners (v.5-10)**

- *When Christ comes there will be a most certain judgment of fire upon sin and sinners! Psalm 50:2-6; 2 Peter 3:10 and many other Bible verses make that abundantly clear! Even Revelation 19:15, 17-21, the Second Coming chapter, make that abundantly clear. **When Jesus Christ comes, God will pour out a judgment of fire upon all the wicked who will most certainly have gathered themselves against Him and His people.** Revelation 13 points out how all the world in its sin and wickedness have gathered against God and His faithful people. The faithful group of believers found to be alive still will be few, but without a doubt faithful (Rev. 12:17; 14:12). Revelation 17:12-14 also speaks of how the world gathers and rallies against the Lord and His coming right at the very end! Revelation 16:14, 16 also speak of the kings of the world, Satan himself, and all his followers aligning themselves against God, during Plague number 6 (which is a judgment for their sin). They gather and plan to attack, but the Lord smashes them all down in plague number 7 and rescues His righteous and faithful people for eternity!*
- **Keep in mind that God does not desire any to be lost.** However, those who cling to their sin will also die with their sin for God must judge all sin and sinners. Jesus Christ paid the price for all of our sins, but if we have rejected and not accepted that message (a message which all the world will hear—especially those of the last days), then we have turned away our only hope and help. God pleads with us now to decide before it is absolutely too late! (See 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11; Romans 6:23; 5:1; John 3:16; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 22:11,12). God stands righteous in His judgment for He gave what was promised for sin, warned about, and also deserved!
- **The wicked will be punished with an everlasting destruction!** None will ever be able to join the realm of the living again! They will be eternally lost! There will be no returning from this judgment and from the “second death” which Revelation speaks of (See Revelation 20:13-15).
- **When Jesus Christ Comes there were be 4 groups:** The wicked dead, the wicked living, the righteous dead, and the righteous living. When Christ comes, the wicked dead stay dead, the wicked living die by the fire of His coming. The righteous dead rise to life and the righteous living stay alive and are given their immortal bodies. All the righteous (those who died before and those still alive) will meet the Lord in the air together at His coming! The wicked will stay dead in their graves for **1000 years**. Satan will be locked up and bound on this earth along with his evil angels for the 1000 years, while the righteous are together with God in heaven, evaluating the books and getting used to the life of heaven. At the end of the 1000 years, the wicked will be rise to life and stand before God, the Eternal Judge and His Throne. They will all, along with Satan and his angels, receive their final judgment from God in the “Lake of fire,” which is called the “second death.” From the second death there is no return. The righteous will live forever with God in the earth made new! (See Revelation 20 and 21:1-5).

- **Paul’s and our prayer for all the believers is that they would be saved in the Lord at last!** (v.11,12) *Let us always pray for each other, even as this!*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your prayer and desire to have the Love of God in your heart and to stand prepared to meet Him at His glorious Coming? _____