

2 Thessalonians 1,2,3 Study Guide

This week we are going to have a bit more reading than normal but if you count the number of verses it really is not that many. 2 Thessalonians is only three chapters; we will attempt to cover all three. So you are familiar with them. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal his word to you as you spend time studying.

1. After reading the three chapters where did you find clues that would help you identify the author?
2. What was the author's purpose for writing?
3. How does he begin his second letter to the believers at Thessalonica?

He has a purpose for writing to the Thessalonians and he will quickly get to that but first what does he want them to know? Vs. 3-4

4. What does he tell them that he knows about?

What are they enduring?

5. What is the sequence for handling suffering as a victorious believer according to Romans 5?
Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
6. Think back to the last time you were suffering, was this how you dealt with it?
7. Was this your plan of action?
8. In spite of all the apostle Paul is enduring, what do you see as an inspiring quality that you might like to see in your own life?
9. What will be the result of suffering for Christ? Vs. 5
10. Do believers need to worry about balancing the scales?
When we are treated unfairly or cruelly what can we know with confidence?
11. What is the place of this judgment? Rev.20:14
12. When Jesus comes again and judgment is rendered on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, what will their punishment be? Vs. 9
13. Does this thought motivate you to share the gospel?
14. Do you have a plan for sharing the gospel with someone else?

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Of course our lives should be lived in such a way that others can see the reality of our salvation but what if a friend were to ask you, “How can I know Jesus?”, **what would you say?**

There are many very easy ways to lead them through scripture to the saving knowledge of Christ; we just need to know them.

- There is the Roman Road, which is simply a way to mark your Bible to lead them through a few scriptures in the book of Romans.
- Evangelism Explosion is my favorite plan which I learned several years ago. It gives you verses to use and it gives word pictures to help them understand the truth you are sharing.
- There is “one verse” evangelism, using Romans 6:23. Almost everyone can understand the idea of wages earned.
- There is one called “The Bridge” which shows the great gulf that is there between man as a sinner and a holy God and the bridge that Christ’s death on the cross became for us.
- There are many more, **just have a plan.**

Now let’s turn our attention to chapter 2. Paul is getting to his reason for writing to them.

15. What is the purpose of his letter?

16. Obviously the believers in Thessalonica are being bothered again by those who would love to lead them astray. What were these deceivers saying that was not true?

17. How could they know it was not true? Vs. 3-5

18. Who is restraining and preventing Satan from his ultimate desire to steal, kill and destroy right now?

If he was not being restrained what would he do?

19. Ultimately, what will happen to all who will not believe, all who will not accept Christ’s death on the cross as the only way of salvation? Vss.10-12

20. Paul mentions the sanctifying (in the Greek, Hagiasmos) work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. vs.13 What is he talking about?

Look up this word and define.

You may want to go back to the root word, **Hagiazō.**

21. What instructions does Paul give in verses 15-17?

How important are these instruction for us today?

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22. What false teachings, pressures or worldliness would love to sway us away from the truth that we know?

If we look closely at the influences that are all around us it will help us see them more clearly for what they are and not be swayed by every wind of teaching that may come our way.

Ephesians 4:11-16 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

23. Now in chapter 3 Paul ask them to pray for him. Specifically how does he want them to pray?

24. Do you see the love Paul has for these believers?

What assurances does he give them in verses 3-4?

25. Why is this reassurance so appreciated?

What do they and we struggle against? Read Ephesians 6:12

John MacArthur had some wonderful notes on this section of scripture.

1 Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

- **Take the threat of spiritual attack seriously**

2 And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith.

- **Pray for strength and help from God**

3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

- **Study the Bible to recognize Satan's style and tactics**
- **Memorize Scripture so it will be a source of help no matter where you are;**

4 We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command

- **Associate with those who speak the truth; and**
- **Practice what you are taught by sound spiritual leaders.**

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Let's look at verses 6- 14

26. What is the problem Paul is addressing here?
27. Do you suppose the believers who had fallen prey to the false teaching that Christ would return at any moment also thought it futile or even spiritual to do nothing?

What does Paul say about this idea?

28. Would you be willing like Paul to instruct others to follow your example?
29. Paul is teaching them about church discipline now. What instruction is given for those who will not repent of their idleness and be busy carrying out the work of God? -

Notice Paul does not start with discipline. He begins with thankfulness to God, instructions and teachings.

But for those who refuse to obey and work along with other believers what does he say is their reward? Vs.10

Read Proverbs 19:15 also

30. What did their idleness lead to?
31. What are you filling your time with?
- Are you busy with the ministry that God has given you?
- What is your ministry?
32. How important is it for us to choose our friends carefully?
33. In our world today it is not just the people we know personally but the ones we invite into our homes and lives via the television, radio and internet. Are they drawing us into a closer relationship with Jesus?

34. If asked you what the book of 2 Thessalonians was about...what would you say?

It is important for us to be able to recall what the different books of the Bible are about so that when a question comes up we will be better equipped to find the answer.

35. How has studying 2 Thessalonians been beneficial to your walk of faith?
36. What have you learned about God from your time in this book?