



IN
OUT

English Standard Version

2 Thessalonians

SO YOU WON'T BE DECEIVED
ABOUT HIS COMING

IN AND OUT®

English Standard Version

2 THESSALONIANS
SO YOU WON'T BE DECEIVED ABOUT HIS COMING

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Overview

Time is short. How wise you are, Beloved, to choose to study God's Word now.

TAKING IT IN

Every book of the Bible is a revelation from God given at a specific time to a particular person for a divine purpose. The Bible is a compilation of sixty-six books, each inspired by the Spirit of God and without error, written over a period of 1600 years by approximately forty authors. Some are history, some are poetry, some are prophecy, and some are letters. Our approach to each is unique to the book.

The purpose of this first lesson of 2 Thessalonians is to discover the context of the book. This will lay the foundation for the other lessons.

The truths of the Bible can be understood only through revelation, taught by the Spirit. So as you begin each day's study, ask God, by His Spirit, to open your eyes so that you might behold wonderful things from His Word.

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14, 17, then record what type of literature this is and who the author of this book is.

2. Since 2 Thessalonians is a letter, the place to begin your study is with the author. Therefore, the first thing you want to do is identify what the book tells you about the author. Then as you evaluate these facts, the context of 2 Thessalonians will begin to unfold.
 - a. Read 2 Thessalonians and mark with a specific color or colored symbol each mention of the author's name along with pronouns, such as "I," "my," "we," and "us," that refer specifically to him.

Use the Observation Worksheets located in the Appendix for assignments. These Observation Worksheets are the text of 2 Thessalonians from the English Standard Version printed double-spaced and are just what they



2 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Overview

say: work sheets. We encourage you to work on them, and at a later date you might want to transfer some of your study notes to your Bible.¹

- b. Using your marked Observation Worksheets, read all three chapters of 2 Thessalonians again. As you read, look carefully at each place you marked the author and list what the text says about him on the page “Author” at the end of the lesson. Do not include what he tells the recipients to do.
 - c. Can you see from the text when Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians? Before or after what? Read 2 Thessalonians 2:5, 15 for clues.
 - d. Can you tell from the text what happened that might have prompted Paul to write this letter? If so, note your answer below.
 - e. Why do you think Paul ended this letter the way he did in 2 Thessalonians 3:17? (You might check 1 Corinthians 16:21; Galatians 6:11; Colossians 4:18.)
3. Next, we’ll focus on the recipients of Paul’s letter.
 - a. Read all three chapters of 2 Thessalonians and mark on your Observation Worksheets each mention of the recipients. Use a different color from what you used to mark the author. Be sure to mark pronouns for the recipients, such as *you* and *your* and synonyms like *brothers* and *beloved*.

¹ *The New Inductive Study Bible* is ideal for this. It is the best study Bible on the market because it doesn’t tell you what the text means. Rather, it gives you instructions for studying each book of the Bible in addition to many other valuable study aids.



- b. Read 2 Thessalonians again. On the page “Recipients” at the end of this lesson, list what you learn about the recipients. Again, don’t list what Paul tells them to do.
 - c. As you observed facts about the recipients, did you learn anything about the historical setting? For instance, did you notice any problems they were experiencing? Note below anything you’ve observed so far.
4. Now we’ll look at some key repeated words in 2 Thessalonians.

Read 2 Thessalonians again and mark the following each in a distinctive way:

- a. *persecutions, afflictions, suffering**
- b. references to the Lord’s coming* (Do not mark “day of the Lord.”)
- c. *labor, work(ing)*

On the back cover of your workbook, you’ll see marking suggestions for some words often used in the Bible. An asterisk [] shows these in this workbook.

5. Let’s begin filling in the chart “2 Thessalonians at a Glance” in the Appendix. You might use a pencil in case you want to change something later.
- a. Fill in the “Author.”
 - b. Under “Key Words” write the key words and phrase that you marked.
 - c. Record under “Historical Setting” what you learned about the setting or circumstances surrounding this letter.
 - d. At this point, if you have an idea why Paul wrote this letter, record it under “Purpose.”
 - e. Considering why Paul wrote and what he wrote about, summarize a theme for the book using a few words from the text. Record the theme beside “Book Theme” on the At a Glance chart.



2 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Overview

6. Second Thessalonians is divided into three chapters. Though these chapter divisions are man-made, as are the verse divisions, they serve to help us identify where specific truths are located.

- a. Read only chapter 1 looking for the theme (main subject) of that chapter. Using a few words from the chapter, summarize what it is about.

Write the theme in the column for chapter 1 on your “2 Thessalonians at a Glance” chart.

- b. Following the same process, read chapter 2 and chapter 3, one at a time, and identify the theme (main subject) of each. Then write the theme in the appropriate space on your “2 Thessalonians at a Glance” chart.

7. Turn to the chart “Sequence of Events in Paul’s Life After His Conversion” at the end of this lesson. We know that this is not the first letter Paul wrote to those believers. According to the chart, when did Paul write both 1 and 2 Thessalonians? Record the date on your “2 Thessalonians at a Glance” chart under “Date.”

LIVING IT OUT

1. What have you learned about Paul that you can model in your walk with the Lord?



2. Based on what you've learned, do you think this letter is relevant today? How are the topics applicable to your life?

3. Did anything you read in 2 Thessalonians speak to your heart in a special way this week? Record it below. Make sure you note why or how it spoke to you.

Well, Beloved, you are on your way, and we rejoice over you. So determine in your heart that you are going to finish this study and do it as to the Lord.





AUTHOR



RECIPIENTS



2 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Sequence of Events in Paul's Life after His Conversion

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN PAUL'S LIFE AFTER HIS CONVERSION*

* There are differing opinions on these dates. For consistency this chart will be the basis for dates pertaining to Paul's life.

Scripture	Year A.D.	Event
Acts 9:1-25	33-34	Conversion, time in Damascus
	35-47	Some silent years, except we know that Paul:
Galatians 1:17		1. Spent time in Arabia and Damascus
Acts 9:26; Galatians 1:18		2. Made first visit to Jerusalem
Acts 9:30-11:26; Galatians 1:21		3. Went to Tarsus, Syria-Cilicia area
Acts 11:26		4. Was with Barnabas in Antioch
Acts 11:27-30		5. With Barnabas took relief to brethren in Judea; Paul's second visit to Jerusalem
Acts 12:23	44	Herod Agrippa I dies
Acts 12:25-13:3		6. Returned to Antioch; was sent out with Barnabas by church at Antioch
Acts 13:4-14:26	47-48	First missionary journey: <i>Galatians</i> written (?) Proconsul Sergius Paulus at Paphos
Acts 15:1-35	49	Apostolic Council at Jerusalem—Paul visits Jerusalem <i>Galatians</i> written (?)
Acts 15:36-18:22	49-51	Second missionary journey: <i>1 and 2 Thessalonians</i> written— 1½ years in Corinth, Acts 18:11
	51-52	Gallio known to be proconsul in Corinth
Acts 18:23-21:17	52-56	Third missionary journey: <i>1 and 2 Corinthians and Romans</i> written— 1 Cor. from Ephesus, 2 Cor. from Macedonia, Romans from Corinth
Acts 21:17-23:35	56	Paul goes to Jerusalem and is arrested; held in Caesarea
Acts 24-26	57-59	Appearance before Felix and Drusilla; before Festus—appeals to Caesar; before Agrippa
Acts 27-28:15	59-60	Paul goes from Caesarea to Rome
Acts 28:16-31	60-62	First Roman imprisonment: <i>Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians</i> written—2 years in prison
	62	Paul's release; possible trip to Spain
	62	Paul in Macedonia: <i>1 Timothy</i> written
	62	Paul goes to Crete <i>Titus</i> written
	63-64	Paul taken to Rome and imprisoned: <i>2 Timothy</i> written
	64	Paul is absent from the body and present with the Lord (Others put Paul's conversion about A.D. 35, his death at A.D. 68.)

14 years, Galatians 2:1

3 years



2 THESSALONIANS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL, Silvanus, and Timothy,

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

- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.
- 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.
- 5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—
- 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
- 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels
- 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
- 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.



- 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,
- 12 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 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,
- 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
 - 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
 - 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
 - 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
 - 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.
 - 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.
 - 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.
 - 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,
 - 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.



- 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,
- 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
- 13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
- 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.
- 16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,
- 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.



2 THESSALONIANS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- FINALLY, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,
- 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.
 - 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.
 - 4 And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.
 - 5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.
 - 6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.
 - 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,
 - 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
 - 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.
 - 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.
 - 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.



- 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
- 13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.
- 14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.
- 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.
- 16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.
- 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write.
- 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.



2 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

Author:

1

Date:

2

Key Words:

3

Purpose:

**Historical
Setting:**

