

# 2 Thessalonians - Introduction Sermon

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## Intro and Background

- imagine with me, that you are the apostle Paul and you have already encouraged the Thessalonian church and well they did not \_\_\_\_\_

- would you write them off and just \_\_\_\_\_ up?

- or would you seek to be \_\_\_\_\_ and again seek to encourage them in the Lord?

- Paul again shows us that he is a great encourager to the church by being \_\_\_\_\_ things

1) like a nursing \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 2:7** But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

2) like a loving \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12** For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

## Who Wrote 2 Thessalonians?

- just like \_\_\_\_ Thessalonians, the book of 2 Thessalonians has the same \_\_\_\_\_ authors!

1) \_\_\_\_\_

- as most of you know, Paul was a serious religious \_\_\_\_\_ belonging to the sect of the Pharisees

- we know that in Acts 7-8 Paul was radically \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and Christianity

- he approved of the execution of Stephen (Acts 8:1) and sought to

arrest those who were

\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (Acts 9:1-2)

- But in Acts 9:3- something amazing happens to Paul

- Paul is struck down, becomes

\_\_\_\_\_ and then is healed by the Lord through the means of Ananias

- Paul then becomes a great

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ

**Acts 9:15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

- and what do we see Paul doing after he is changed by the Lord

**Acts 9:20** And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

- he \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

2) \_\_\_\_\_

- Silvanus might be better known as \_\_\_\_\_

- Silvanus was a \_\_\_\_\_ - in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:22)

- after Paul and Barnabas had their disagreement about John Mark - Paul chose Silvanus to go with him on his \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journey

**Acts 15:40** but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord."

3) \_\_\_\_\_

- was a half Greek and half Jewish Christian who learned about the Lord Jesus from his \_\_\_\_\_ and grandmother

**2 Timothy 1:5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother

Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

- Timothy was a young disciple of Paul as we see in 1 and 2 Timothy

- he accompanied Paul on his 2nd missionary journey!

- we also know that Timothy played an important role in the

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Thessalonian church

- Timothy goes to Thessalonica and brings back a \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul

**1 Thessalonians 3:6** But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you--

## Who Received This Book?

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

- obviously this is the same church that received the book of 1 Thessalonians

- so these \_\_\_\_\_ who were both Jews and Greeks received Jesus Christ as the Messiah!

## Why Was this book Written?

- the book of 2 Thessalonians is a \_\_\_\_\_ attempt to deal with the issues that this church was facing

- Paul is addressing \_\_\_\_\_ major issues that this church was struggling with and that were not resolved after the writing of 1st Thessalonians

- Paul, Silvanus and Timothy must have received some fresh information about how they were doing and this prompted them to write this \_\_\_\_\_ for three main reasons

1) to encourage these Christians because they are facing \_\_\_\_\_

- in 1:3-7 we see the two words used “persecutions” and “afflictions”

- this church was born in the midst of persecution against Paul, Silas and Timothy and their preaching of Christ (Acts 17:1-8)

- we know that many Jews were radically against the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord Jesus and they put pressure on this church

- the Thessalonian church was even a church that Paul boasted about because of their

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord in the midst of this suffering

2) to \_\_\_\_\_ some false teaching on the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord Jesus

- in 1 Thessalonians we saw that there were two major issues that the church was struggling with concerning the

\_\_\_\_\_ coming of \_\_\_\_\_

a) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – there was a \_\_\_\_\_ teaching advocating that those who had died would not partake in the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord Jesus

b) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – there was a misunderstanding about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ

- here Paul addresses the \_\_\_\_\_ teaching that he is dealing with in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

- someone in their midst was teaching that the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ come

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> 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.

- Paul goes onto explain that the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ come about until the man of lawlessness is revealed

**2 Thessalonians 2:3** 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,

3) Paul writes this letter to deal with the ongoing issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and people not working in the congregation

- we know that this was an issue in the 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Thessalonians

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, <sup>12</sup> so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the \_\_\_\_\_, be patient with them all.

- likely what was going on here, was certain \_\_\_\_\_ thought that the coming of the Lord was very soon and therefore they did not have to work!

- because they were not working and they were capable, they were putting a serious financial \_\_\_\_\_ on the church

- this issue had not been resolved and Paul writes this long exhortation about \_\_\_\_\_ Christians and those who refuse to work!

**2 Thessalonians 3:6-12** 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. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

## Outline of 2 Thessalonians

1) (1:1-2) Introduction

2) (1:3-12) Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

3) (2:1-12) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus and the Lawless One

4) (2:13-15) Be Firm in the Lord

5) (3:1-5) Paul Asks for Prayer

6) (3:6-15) Warning Against Laziness

7) (3:16-18) Conclusion

## The Major Themes in 2 Thessalonians

### 1) The Lord

- much like 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians teaches us about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and thus the character and work of the Holy Trinity

a) The Father

1:3; 2:13 - we see Paul two times \_\_\_\_\_ God for His work in the Thessalonians

- this reveals to us that the Lord is sovereign not only over the salvation of the Thessalonians but also over their health as a \_\_\_\_\_

- we also see the Lord's sovereignty over people, He sends a strong delusion over those who are unbelieving

**2 Thessalonians 2:11** Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,

- one of the dominating themes in Thessalonians is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

- here Paul describes God's punishment of those who \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and do not obey the gospel!

**2 Thessalonians 1:5-9** 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-- <sup>6</sup> since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

- we also see an emphasis upon the grace of God in 2 Thessalonians

1:2 – \_\_\_\_\_ from God

2:13 – God \_\_\_\_\_ this church and has called this church into relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

- this love and this calling is grace!

- goodness and mercy is shown to people who do not deserve it!

3:3 – Paul declares in 2 Thessalonians that the Lord is a \_\_\_\_\_ God

- in 2 Thessalonians God the Father is sovereign, holy, gracious and faithful

- the Lord will fulfill His promises

- as we turn on the news and hear all the heartache and trials throughout the world, how much more do we need to turn off the news and tune into the Word of God and \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the Lord

- will you do this and see the complete \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord in His work through His people

- that is a much more important message to hear than rising Covid numbers and Maple Leafs or Blue Jays stats

- Again I encourage you as we start this book (2 Thessalonians ) to \_\_\_\_\_ the references of the Lord here and ponder His greatness!

b) Jesus Christ

- although 2 Thessalonians does not lay out the gospel as extensively as in 1 Thessalonians we can certainly see that the gospel is the same as what Paul proclaimed in Acts 17

**Acts 17:3** explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

- Paul does speak about the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in Jesus Christ and the gospel of Jesus Christ

**2 Thessalonians 1:2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8** in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do

\_\_\_\_\_ know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

**2 Thessalonians 1:12** so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be \_\_\_\_\_ in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Thessalonians 2:16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us \_\_\_\_\_ comfort and good hope through grace,

**2 Thessalonians 3:18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

- and of course this letter has a heavy emphasis upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ

c) The Holy \_\_\_\_\_

- there is only one reference to the Holy Spirit in 2 Thessalonians
- Paul speaks about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit
- Paul writes first that the Holy Spirit through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus makes us holy and applies the gospel to our hearts
- also the Holy Spirit progresses us in holiness as we put to death sin in the sanctification process!

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** 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 \_\_\_\_\_, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

## 2) The 2nd Coming of Jesus

- like we have already mentioned this letter is in response to the \_\_\_\_\_ that the

Thessalonians had with regards to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord Jesus

- some people think that Paul is confused about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus in this letter because he said that Jesus would come like a \_\_\_\_\_ in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2) and now Paul says that Jesus will not come until we see the rebellion of the lawless one

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-10** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

- but even Jesus talks about not knowing the \_\_\_\_\_ or the hour but speaks about things that must happen before he comes again in Matthew 24 and in Mark 13!

## 3) The Christian \_\_\_\_\_ Ethic

- what Paul teaches here in 2 Thessalonians is very similar to what is taught about



working in the book of \_\_\_\_\_

- in 3:6 – they are to keep away from a lazy brother
- in 3:10-12 Paul calls them to be \_\_\_\_\_ and work hard
- if they do not work, they should not \_\_\_\_\_
- he exhorts them not to be busy bodies or lazy but to work \_\_\_\_\_
- do their work quietly and earn a living
- do you remember what Proverbs says about laziness and hard work?

**Proverbs 24:33-34** A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the \_\_\_\_\_ to rest,<sup>34</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

**Proverbs 19:15** Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

#### 4) The Christian \_\_\_\_\_ Life

- just like 1 Thessalonians, in 2 Thessalonians Paul focuses much upon prayer
- in 1:3; 2:13 – Paul thanks God
- Paul continues to live out thankfulness to God as that is God's will for his life (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

- Paul continues to pray for their \_\_\_\_\_ and that they would grow in the Lord

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12** 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,<sup>12</sup> 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.

- 2:17 – Paul prays that they would be \_\_\_\_\_ by God and established for good works

- 3:1 – Paul asks the Thessalonians to pray for him, that the Word of the Lord would increase as they preach the gospel
- Paul asks for prayer that they would be \_\_\_\_\_ from wicked men, whom Paul had already faced in his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journeys
- 3:16 Paul prays that the Lord of \_\_\_\_\_ would give them peace!

### Application

#### 1) A Great Warning!

- the book of 2 Thessalonians speaks very clearly about something that neither society nor the church wants to talk about – the future \_\_\_\_\_ of people who reject the Lord Jesus Christ
- if we do preach about this judgement, the world is going to accuse us of using a scare tactic and that we are using fear to get people to give us money
- but that is a false attack with no evidence!
- what does 2 Thessalonians say about the fruits of our sin and our rejection of the Lord Jesus?
- It warns us...

1:5 – God executes a righteous judgment meaning that His judgements are just and warranted upon sinners

1:7 – God will \_\_\_\_\_ those who afflict the people of God

1:8 – flaming fire

- God will inflict vengeance

1:9 – they will \_\_\_\_\_ eternal destruction and - they will be away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His might

- this section clearly teaches us the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- the Lord cannot look at sin, the Lord gets angry at sin, because He is a \_\_\_\_\_ God

- think of what the Psalms say about the Holiness of God

**Psalm 34:16** The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

**Psalm 5:4-5** For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

- these are serious words

- Covid has exposed that many people cherish the life that God has given them even though they do not \_\_\_\_\_

the God who gave them their life

- but should we not consider as well life after death?

- we know that all of us stand as sinners before God, none of us are good and apart from the work of the Lord Jesus and the grace given to us through Jesus, and this judgment is what we all \_\_\_\_\_

## 2) A Great Blessing!

- but there is a great blessing through Jesus Christ  
- although Paul does not mention the specifics of the work of Christ on the Cross in 2 Thessalonians he sure does in 1 Thessalonians

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- the work of Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_ from the wrath to come is this great Blessing!

- as a Christian this great blessing ought to lead us to \_\_\_\_\_, to prayer to praise to adoring God

- this great blessing is amazing that saves wretched people who receive this grace and love of God through Jesus Christ!

- if you do not know the Lord the grace of Christ is before you!

- Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of which we all are the worst

**Romans 3:10-18** as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." <sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." <sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." <sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known." <sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

- what do we deserve for our ungodliness? The wrath and anger of God

- but God does not \_\_\_\_\_ people as they deserve!

- God sends His son to pay this punishment in our place!

- receive Christ's deliverance from the \_\_\_\_\_ to come by \_\_\_\_\_ in His work upon the cross!

- so that you can be delivered from the wrath to come and have new life!

## Coming up next week: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 – Thankfulness to God