

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #44 – 1 & 2 Thessalonians

PRAYER: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 as a prayer.

Notes on 1 Thessalonians: Paul's journey to Thessalonica was a short one. (Acts 17) Persecution had taken him there and he would be driven out of town by angry Jews who did not want him spreading the Gospel. The first letter was sent soon afterward from Corinth. A likely date is 51 AD. This would make it possibly the first of Paul's letters as we have them in the New Testament.

Because he didn't have much time to establish the church and because he knew they would face severe persecution, this letter was sent to encourage them. There are remarks concerning the return of Christ in every chapter. Chapter 4 has one of the most detailed descriptions of Judgement Day in the Bible. It would be reasonable to think that thought of Christ's return would be prevalent among believers suffering because of their faith.

Favorite verse from 1 Thessalonians:

Questions on 1 Thessalonians:

1. Every chapter of this book has a reference to the 2nd coming of Christ. Make a short notation of the thoughts about the return of Christ found in the 5 chapters.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
2. Chapter 2 – what did Paul and his companions do while in Thessalonica so that they would not burden the people and show them the Gospel is free?
3. In Chapter 4:1-12 – Paul urges them to live holy/sanctified lives. What are some things he mentions that help you to serve Him and your neighbor?
4. Chapter 4:13-18 & 5:10 – Christians were dying and Christ had not yet returned. People wondered about their loved ones. Paul's answer here is to comfort them. What is especially comforting to you in these verses?

5. Chapter 5:12-22 – Paul gives a list of very practical advice to Christians here. In the short verses of 16, 17 & 18 Paul summarized the simple rules for a satisfying Christ-centered life. Do you agree? Is this advice easy to follow?

Your question on 1 Thessalonians...

Notes on 2 Thessalonians: Paul most likely wrote this letter just a few months after the first letter. The topics are very similar. Because of their preoccupation with the return of Christ, which they thought was very close, some of the members of the church had quit their jobs. They became a burden to the church. Paul's remarks to them has been repeated throughout the ages. (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

Your favorite verse from 2 Thessalonians:

Questions on 2 Thessalonians:

1. Chapter 1 – What are some of the punishments unbelievers will endure because of their rejection of God's grace.
2. Chapter 2:1-12 Here Paul speaks of the end times. The "man of lawlessness" has been interpreted to be many different people and things throughout history. Luther said it was the Roman Papacy. Whatever it is, Satan will use it to lead people astray. It really is not profitable to argue one view as opposed to others. It is a difficult passage as Peter mentions in 2 Peter 3:16. In response to the threat of Satan, Paul encourages us to stand firm. (2:13-17) What are some of the teachings of Paul that we should hold onto when confronted with the Devil's temptations?
3. Chapter 3 – What are some of the problems created by those who were idly waiting for Christ's return?

Your questions on 2 Thessalonians: