

2 Thessalonians

SO YOU WON'T BE DECEIVED
ABOUT HIS COMING

IN AND OUT®

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

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Time Is Short!

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

TAKING IT IN The purpose of this first lesson is to discover the context of the book of 2 Thessalonians. This is an important lesson because it lays the foundation for all the other lessons. We'll begin with the **Overview**, the view of the entire book, to discover the context.

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

2. Now let's focus on the author.
 - a. Read 2 Thessalonians and mark with a specific color or colored symbol each mention of the author's name along with the pronouns, such as "I," "my," "we," and "us," that refer specifically to him.

Use the Observation Worksheets, located in the Appendix. These worksheets are the text of 2 Thessalonians from the New American Standard Bible printed double-spaced and are just what they say: worksheets. We encourage you to do your work on them, and at a later date you might want to transfer some of your study notes to your Bible.¹

- b. Look carefully at every place you marked the author and list what you learn on the page at the end of this lesson titled "Author." Do not include instructions or facts that are true of all believers.
 - c. Can you see from the text **when** this letter to the Thessalonians was written? Before or after what? Read 2 Thessalonians 2:5, 15 for clues.

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.

- c. Record Paul's purpose for writing on "2 Thessalonians at a Glance."
6. Now, let's complete "2 Thessalonians at a Glance."
- a. Read 2 Thessalonians, observing what you have marked, and summarize Paul's message to the Thessalonians. Record this as the book theme on "2 Thessalonians at a Glance." (Use words from the text.)
 - b. Now read each chapter, looking for the theme (main topic) of that chapter.
 - 1) Which topic is emphasized in the chapter? How could you summarize what Paul is saying to them in this chapter?
 - 2) When you have identified the theme, write it in the column for that chapter on your "2 Thessalonians at a Glance" chart.

**LIVING
IT OUT**

Have you ever been shaken or disturbed when you heard varied teachings about events that are still to come? What have you learned in 2 Thessalonians that will help you?

Well, Beloved, you are on your way, and we rejoice over you.

Second Thessalonians is a book that is going to cement you in truth and keep you from being shaken or disturbed. How the church of Jesus Christ needs to take heed to the message it contains! Such knowledge puts a firmness in your stance when you hold fast to truth, doesn't it?

AUTHOR

RECIPIENTS

2 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

Author:

1

Key Words:

2

Purpose:

3

**Historical
 Setting:**

2 THESSALONIANS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL and 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 the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;
- 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.
- 5 *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.
- 6 For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
- 7 and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
- 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

- 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.
- 11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,
- 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will 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** we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
- 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
 - 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
 - 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
 - 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?
 - 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.
 - 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.
 - 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;
 - 9 *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,
 - 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

- 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,
- 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.
- 13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
- 14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.
- 16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,
- 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

2 THESSALONIANS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- FINALLY, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you;
- 2 and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.
- 3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*.
- 4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue to* do what we command.
- 5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.
- 6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.
- 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,
- 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;
- 9 not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.
- 10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.
- 11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

- 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.
- 13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.
- 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.
- 15 *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.
- 16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!
- 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.
- 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.