

Bible Reading Notes
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

Pastor Jeff Landis

1 Thessalonians 1-2

We believe Paul wrote this letter in 51-53 AD during his extended stay in Corinth after receiving a report on the church from Timothy (3:1ff).

1:4 – he has chosen you – The evidence of their election was their reception of the gospel, even in the midst of affliction (vv. 5-10).

2:7, 12 – mother...father - Paul's great love for the Thessalonians is seen in his language of being like a mother and father to them.

2:17 – torn away – This too is family language. It means to be “orphaned,” ripped away from family.

1 Thessalonians 3-4

3:11-13 – Paul does not pray that they would be set free from their affliction but that they would grow in love and holiness.

4:3 – sexual immorality – Sexual immorality was a common sin among the Gentiles of the first century, one that many of the Thessalonians prior to conversion engaged in.

4:13-18 – Paul had taught them about Christ's return. They must have expected the return of Christ to occur soon. Now some of the believers in the church have died. Their concern was whether these believers will miss out on the blessings of the second coming.

1 Thessalonians 5

5:3 – peace and security...sudden destruction – This imagery comes from the Old Testament – Isaiah 13:6-9 and Amos 5:18ff.

5:11 – encourage – A second time (4:18) Paul uses eschatology to encourage the saints. Good theology is an encouragement to the believer!

2 Thessalonians 1

This letter was also written from Corinth, shortly after 1 Thessalonians.

1:3 – faith is growing abundantly - This is the fulfillment of Paul's prayer for them in 1 Thessalonians 3:10-12.

1:5-10 – Paul teaches about the judgment of God which will occur on the last day.

2 Thessalonians 2

2:1-2 – Someone was telling the Thessalonian Christians that the Lord had already returned. The following paragraph is designed to assure them that these teachers are wrong.

2:3 – Two events must happen prior to Christ's return: the rebellion (apostasy in the church) and the coming of the man of lawlessness (the antichrist), who is at the center of the rebellion. The man of lawlessness is mentioned in Daniel 11:36 as a king opposed to the Lord.

2:9 – The man of lawlessness operates in the power of Satan but is distinct from Satan.

2 Thessalonians 3

3:6 – walking in idleness – This refers to one who has gotten so caught up in end time teaching that he has quit his job and is waiting for Christ to return.

3:14-15 – This is a stage of discipline that is short of excommunication since the person is still regarded as a brother. The censure is intended to communicate to the offender that a normal relationship is not possible until he/she repents.