

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

THE LETTERS OF PAUL 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

LESSON 22

LESSON OUTLINE

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- II. OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS
- III. LESSONS IN 1 THESSALONIANS
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 - B. The coming of Christ encourages the young Christians.
 - C. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to work faithfully.
 - D. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to love each other.
 - E. The coming of Christ comforts Christians who sorrow.
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1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

I. INTRODUCTION TO 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

Who wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

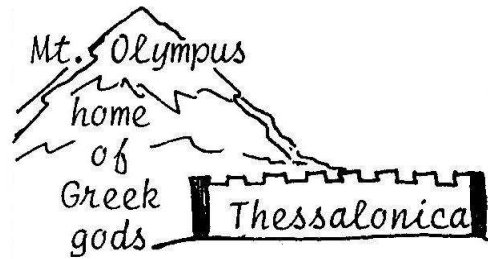
Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1. Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy were with Paul when he wrote these letters.

When 1 and 2 Thessalonians were written.

Paul had been at Thessalonica. From there he went to Berea, Athens and then to Corinth. While at Corinth he wrote the first letter to the Thessalonians. A few months later he wrote the second letter to the Thessalonians. He wrote these letters A.D. 49 to 54.

To whom 1 and 2 Thessalonians were written.

Thessalonica was a Greek city. It was not ruled by the Roman government like other cities. It had its own council. Thessalonica was a rich city. Find Thessalonica on the map. It was in Macedonia. Thessalonica was about 80 miles southwest of Philippi.



Thessalonica was close to Mount Olympus. Mount Olympus was said to be the home of Greek gods.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica.

Paul was at Thessalonica only a short time. The Jews chased him out of the city. Yet, a church was started. Acts 17:1-9. Most of the people in this church were Gentiles.

Paul was anxious about the young Christians in Thessalonica. He did not have time to teach them as much as he wanted. Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica. He was to see how the Christians were doing. Timothy came back to Paul. He told Paul the Christians were having a hard time. They wondered what would happen to those who died for their faith in Christ. Yet, the Christians stayed true to their faith in Christ.

Why 1 Thessalonians was written.

Paul wrote this letter to encourage the Christians. Paul was happy because they were true to their faith in Christ. He told the Christians that God would bless them for their faith.

Paul told the Christians what would happen to those who died.

Paul told the Christians how they should live while they were waiting for Christ to come again.

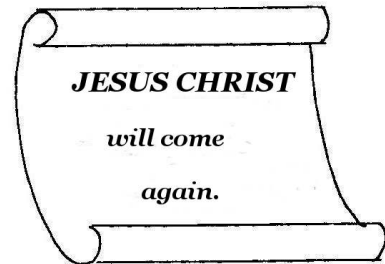
Why 2 Thessalonians was written.

The Christians had many questions about the second coming of Christ. Someone said that Christ had come already. Paul told the Christians such words were not true. Paul told the Christians some of the things that would happen before Christ would come again.

Some Christians thought Christ would come back right away. These people would not work. Paul told these people to get to work.

Main thought of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

The main thought of 1 and 2 Thessalonians is: The second coming of Jesus Christ.



II. OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS

- A. The coming of Christ encourages young Christians, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.
- B. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to work faithfully, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20.
- C. The coming of Christ encourages Christians to love each other, 1 Thessalonians 3:1 - 4:12.
- D. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians who sorrow, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- E. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to live holy lives, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28.

III. LESSONS IN 1 THESSALONIANS

A. The coming of Christ.

The coming of Christ has two parts to it. These parts are separated by about seven years. This time between the first part and second part is called the tribulation time or time of troubles.

The coming of Christ is spoken about in several ways. These ways are: the second coming of Christ and the day of the Lord. We would call this the rapture. Part one. The Lord Jesus will come to take the Christians out of the world. He will take the Christians who have died. Then He will take the Christians who are alive. He will not come to earth. He will call them up to meet Him in the clouds. From there the Christians will go to heaven to be with Christ. This is called the rapture. 1 Thessalonians tells mostly about this part.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST JESUS

as seen from Thessalonians and other Scriptures

	Christians in heaven 1 Thessalonians 4:17	forever	forever
Rapture	Day of The Lord		
Time of Grace Ephesians 3:1-12.	7 years Tribulation Daniel 9:27; Revelation 12:14; Daniel 12.	1,000 years Millennium Revelation 20:4.	
Jesus Christ comes for the Christians. The Christians meet Christ in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.	Christ comes with His angels to earth. Christ punishes those who rejected Him, 2 Thessalonians 2:8. Christ kills the man of sin. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.	Christ rules the earth.	
	Seven years of great troubles on earth.	Satan bound 1,000 years. Revelation 20:2.	

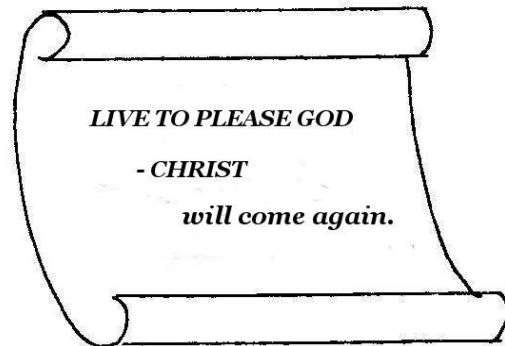
Part two. The Lord Jesus will come to earth with His angels. This time He will come all the way to earth. He will punish those who rejected Him. He will punish those who made it hard for the Christians. This is called the Day of the Lord. 2 Thessalonians tells mostly about this part. See the chart.

B. The coming of Christ encourages the young Christians.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1.

Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians tells about the coming of Christ.

The church at Thessalonica was not a year old when Paul wrote his first letter to the Thessalonians. Already the Christians showed great faith in Christ. They knew Christ would come again. This made their faith strong, 1 Thessalonians 1:10.



Other people knew about the Christians at Thessalonica because:

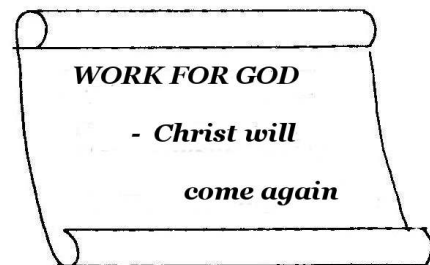
- 1) they followed the teaching of Paul, Silas and Timothy. They followed the Lord Jesus.
- 2) they suffered hard times because they believed the gospel.
- 3) they had joy from the Holy Spirit.
- 4) their good lives showed the Christians in Macedonia and Greece how to live.
- 5) they spoke the Word of God in the countries of Macedonia and Greece.
- 6) they had great faith.
- 7) they turned from false gods.

The Christians lived the way they did because they were waiting for Christ to come again.

C. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to work faithfully.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2.

Paul looked forward to standing in front of Jesus Christ. The people he brought to Jesus would be with him. This would be a great joy for Paul, 1 Thessalonians 2:19,20.



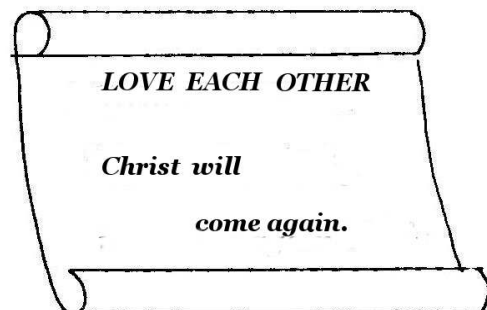
Won't it be wonderful to be able to stand in front of Jesus Christ with those we have brought to Him!

Paul was willing to suffer persecution. He preached the Word of God as it was. He preached so the people could understand the Word of God. Paul worked to earn the money he needed to live. He did this to make it easy for the Thessalonians to believe in Christ. Paul was faithful in his work. He knew he would have joy because he brought people to Jesus Christ.

D. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to love each other.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1 - 4:12.

Paul cared about the Christians. This shows that he loved the Christians. He knew they were being persecuted. He knew the devil come again.



was trying to destroy their faith. Paul sent Timothy to see the Christians. He was to speak words of courage to the Christians. He was to help them.

Paul was happy when Timothy came back. Timothy told Paul the Christians were strong in their faith. Paul thanked God for keeping them strong in their faith.

Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians. He told them he wanted to come to see them.

Paul also told them how they could live to please God.

How the Christian is to live.

- 1) He is to live a holy life.
- 2) He is to live to please God.
- 3) He is to keep away from sex sins.
- 4) He is to use his body in the right way. He is to take care of his body.
- 5) He is not to wrong other Christians.
- 6) He is to love other Christians.
- 7) He is to do his work well.
- 8) He is to live a quiet life.

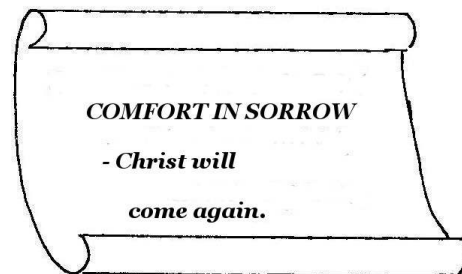
When a Christian does these things, those who are not Christians will respect him.

E. The coming of Christ comforts the Christians who sorrow.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18.

The Christians at Thessalonica did not know what would happen to those who died. They were afraid they would miss the coming of Christ.

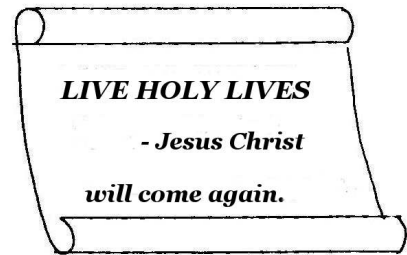
Christians are not to have sorrow like those who have no hope. Jesus Christ arose from the dead. Because of this, He will raise the Christians who have died. He will come again. When He comes, the Christians who are dead will rise first. Then those who are alive will be taken up with them. Together they will meet the Lord Jesus in the air. From there they will go to be with the Lord Jesus in heaven. Truly these are comforting words.



F. The coming of Christ encourages the Christians to live holy lives.

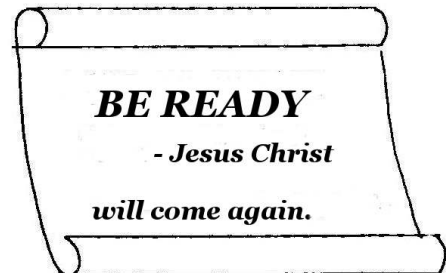
READ 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 5.

No one knows when Christ will come again.
Because of this Christians should be ready all the time.



The Christian who is ready will do these things:

- 1) Watch and keep his mind awake to what is happening. (The news is full of signs of the coming of the Lord Jesus.)
- 2) Live a holy life. He will not live like those who are not Christians. He will not get drunk.
- 3) Comfort others. He will help make others strong.
- 4) Respect the Christian who works with him. He will respect those who are over him, and those who teach him.
- 5) Live at peace with others.
- 6) Tell the lazy person he is wrong.
- 7) Help the weak.
- 8) Try to understand and wait for others. come again.
- 9) Try not to get even with others.
- 10) Do good to all people.
- 11) Be full of joy all the time.
- 12) Keep his mind on praying all the time. He will give thanks for everything that happens.
- 13) Will not stop the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 14) Will not laugh at those who speak for God.
- 15) Test everything to see if it is true.
- 16) Will not let the good things get away from him - will look for the blessings from the Lord.
- 17) Keep away from things which look like sin.



1 Thessalonians closes with a prayer for the Christians. It is a good guide for our praying. The prayer is:

- 1) that the God of peace would set them completely apart from the world for Himself.
- 2) that their soul, spirit and body would be kept complete.
- 3) that they would be without blame when the Lord Jesus comes.

2 THESSALONIANS

IV. OUTLINE OF 2 THESSALONIANS

- A. The coming of Christ gives comfort to those who suffer, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.
- B. The coming of Christ and what will happen before He comes, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17.
- C. The coming of Christ and the way a Christian should live, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18.

V. LESSONS IN 2 THESSALONIANS

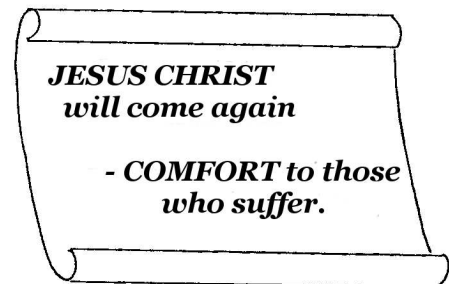
The Christians in Thessalonica were looking for Jesus Christ to come. They suffered much. Someone said or wrote that the Lord had come already. Maybe this person said Paul sent the message. The Christians were afraid. They did not know what to do. Paul heard about this and wrote 2 Thessalonians to them.

A. The coming of Christ comforts those who suffer.

READ 2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1.

Paul started this letter by giving thanks to God for the Christians. Paul was thankful because their faith in Jesus was growing. He was thankful because their love for each other was growing. Suffering was making the true believers strong. It also turned away those who did not really believe.

Paul told the Christians God would punish those who made them suffer. God would do this when Christ comes to earth with His angels. Jesus Christ will receive honor from all who believe in Him.



A prayer for the Christians is: (2 Thessalonians 1:11,12)

- 1) that God would make them worth being chosen.
- 2) that His power would help them do the good things they wanted to do.
- 3) that their work of faith would be complete.

When God works these things in the Christian's life, he brings honor to Himself.

Often God uses suffering to do this. When the Christian understands this truth, he will have comfort.

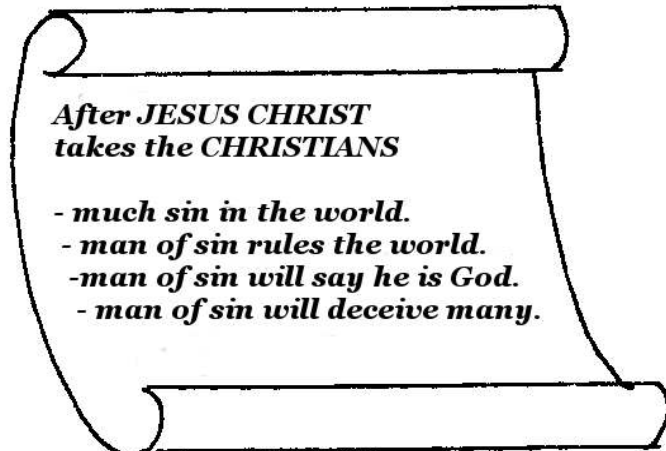
B. The coming of Christ and what will happen before He comes.

READ 2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2.

Before Christ comes to take the Christians, many people will turn away from God. This is happening in the churches where they do not believe Jesus Christ is God.

After the Christians are taken out of the world, there will be nothing to stop people from doing sin. The devil has a man of sin ready to rule this world. This man of sin will rule during the tribulation time. This man will put himself

above every god. He will move into the temple of God at Jerusalem. He will say he is God. The devil will use this man of sin. He will give him power to do miracles. The man of sin will be able to deceive those who are lost in sin. These are the ones who refused to receive the truth of the gospel.



When Jesus Christ comes back with His angels, He will punish those who do not believe in Him. Jesus Christ will destroy the man of sin.

2 Thessalonians 2:13,14 says,

“Christian brothers, the Lord loves you. We always thank God for you. It is because God has chosen you from the beginning to save you from the penalty of sin. He chose to make you holy by the Holy Spirit and to give you faith to believe the truth. It was by our preaching the Good News that you were chosen. He chose you to share the shining greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (N.L.T.)

C. The coming of Christ and the way the Christian should live.

READ 2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 3.

The Christian should work for his living. He should not sit around waiting for

Christ to come. He should not spend his time trying to see what others are doing. The Christian should stay away from those who refuse to believe the Word of God. Yet, the Christian should not treat such people as enemies. He should warn them as he would warn his own brother.

The last words of the letter are:

"May the Lord of peace give you His peace at all times. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (N.L.T.)

VI. WORDS TO LEARN

1. man of sin - is a man who is going to be the leader of those who break the law. He will rule the world during the time of the tribulation.
2. millennium - a period of 1,000 years when Christ will rule the world. The devil will be bound during these years.
3. rapture - Christ taking the Christians out of the world, and raising those who were believers when they died.
4. tribulation - time of hard troubles which will come after Christ takes the Christians out of the world.

VII. ASSIGNMENT

1. How long after Paul left Thessalonica did he write to them?
Were both letters written at about the same time?
2. The Christians at Thessalonica (were) (were not) persecuted.
3. Why did Paul write the first letter to the Christians at Thessalonica?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
4. Why did Paul write the second letter to the Christians at Thessalonica?

5. What is the main thought of 1 and 2 Thessalonians?
6. The Christians in Thessalonica were mostly (Jews) (Gentiles)
7. There are two parts to the coming of the Lord Jesus. They are:
 - 1)
 - 2)
8. What things listed in 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 must be also true of us?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)
 - 7)
9. When we stand in front of Christ, our pride and joy will be those
(1 Thessalonians 2:19,20).
10. Paul prayed for the Christians. What did he pray for the Christians? 1 Thessalonians 3:10-13.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
11. How should a Christian be living when Christ comes again? 1 Thessalonians 4:1-11
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)

6)

7)

8)

12. When Christ comes again, what will happen first? 1 Thessalonians 4:16

What will happen next? 1 Thessalonians 4:17

What will happen after this? 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Will Christ come to earth at this time?

13. How will the Day of the Lord come? 1 Thessalonians 5:2,3

14. What will a Christian, who is ready for Christ to come, do? 1

Thessalonians 5:12-22

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

11)

12)

13)

14)

15)

16)

- 17)
15. Which verses in 1 Thessalonians tell about Jesus coming again?
 16. What does suffering prove? 2 Thessalonians 1:5
 17. What is the difference between the coming of the Lord in
1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10?
 18. The coming of the Lord in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 is also called the
. The coming of the Lord in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10
is called the .
 19. What two things must happen before the Lord Jesus will come again? 2
Thessalonians 2:3
 - 1)
 - 2)
 20. What will the man of sin do? 2 Thessalonians 2:4
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 21. What will Jesus do to this man of sin? 2 Thessalonians 2:8
 22. Why can the man of sin not be seen today? 2 Thessalonians 2:7
 23. Do you think the coming of the Lord Jesus in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 is the
same time as that spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2:8?
Why?

24. How should Christians live while they wait for Jesus to come? 2

Thessalonians 3:6-15

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

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