

# Lessons From II Thessalonians

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## Introduction

(II Th 1:1-2)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From II Thessalonians.”
  - a. Last week we finished up our lessons from I Thessalonians.
  - b. This week we are going to start our next set of lessons from II Thessalonians.
    - i. **II Th 1:1-2** “Paul, 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 our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. We will look at the introductory material.
3. With that in mind let us examine this great second letter.

### I. The Historicity Of II Thessalonians

- A. The town
  1. Thessalonica was at one time known as Therma.
    - i. This seems to be due to the many hot salt springs in the area.
  2. Thessalonica or where it was located is now known as Salonika.
    - i. This is at the head of the Theriac Gulf.
  3. It’s location led to it quickly becoming a prosperous and vital city.
    - i. In 315 BC it served as a great naval port station.
    - ii. In 146 BC it was the metropolis of the united province.
  4. During the Roman Empire.
    - i. In 42 BC when the Roman’s came Thessalonica sided with Antony & Octavius and because of this it was declared a “free city.”
    - ii. Rome divided Macedonia into four governments.
      - a. These four governments were governed by seven polyarchs.
        1. Each of these were responsible to the Roman proconsul but they were elected by the people of Macedonia hence the “free city” status.
      - b. Thessalonica was made the chief city of the second province.
        1. It quickly became the metropolis of the whole region.
  5. During the time of Paul’s visit.
    - i. Thessalonica was the largest city of Macedonia.
      - a. This means it lent itself as one of influence to Macedonia.
    - ii. Thessalonica had a large population of Jews.
      - a. It was for this reason Paul & Silas had to eventually be sent at night to Berea.
        1. **Ac 17:5-10**

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. The author
  - 1. The author can be no other than the apostle Paul.
    - i. “External and internal evidence is such that no honest, reputable Bible student would question Pauline authorship.” (Notes: “II Thessalonians Introduction” by Parrish, Eddie pg. 5)
      - a. **II Th 1:1** “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
  - 2. We also see clearly that Silas & Timothy are there with Paul.
    - i. Silvanus is Silas.
- C. The date
  - 1. Paul and Silas came to Berea (**Ac 17:10**) and was later joined there by Timothy.
  - 2. Paul and Timothy then continued to Athens leaving Silas in Berea.
    - i. Timothy was then sent back to Thessalonica.
  - 3. Paul intended to wait in Athens for Silas and Timothy (**Ac 17:15**).
    - i. However Paul, for some reason, left Athens without them and did not join them again until they all met at Corinth.
  - 4. We can see that all three were together at the writing of the first letter to Thessalonica (**I Th 1:1**).
    - i. At the time of the second letter we still find all three together.
      - a. **II Th 1:1**
  - 5. Consider what we know.
    - i. Paul only stayed in Corinth (where he wrote both letters) for roughly 18 months (**Ac 18:11**).
    - ii. Luke tells us that Gallio was proconsul while Paul was there (**Ac 18:12-17**).
      - a. Secular history puts Gallio as proconsul between 51-52 AD.
    - iii. Paul had to have written the second letter within a few months of the first.
  - 6. It would appear, therefore, to indicate that this letter was written about in 52 AD only a handful of months after the first letter was written.

## II. The Context Of II Thessalonians

- A. The recipients
  - 1. These were the Jews, devout men, and leading women that had obeyed while Paul, Silas, and Timothy had been in Thessalonica.
    - i. No doubt there were some “new” Christians however the bulk would have been those who knew Paul from when he was there.
- B. The purpose
  - 1. Though it is impossible to know the exact events that took place in the church at Thessalonica between the first and second letters we can look at the content and determine a strong theory.

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2. We know Paul had received word concerning the brethren and it concerned him enough to write once again so shortly after the first letter.
  - i. The good news.
    - a. They had increased in faith (1:3)
    - b. They were persevering through the persecution (1:4).
    - c. Evidently their concern for their deceased Christian brothers was answered.
  - ii. The troubling news.
    - a. Some were teaching that Christ's return was imminent.
      1. This teaching seems to have come from a fraudulent letter thought to be from Paul (2:2).
    - b. Some, because of this teaching, quit their jobs and now were meddling in the affairs of others (3:11).
      1. Remember Paul taught against this in his first letter I Th 4:10-12).
3. Thus...
  - i. Paul wrote this second letter to "correct these misunderstands about the coming of Christ (2:1-12) and to encourage the brethren to discipline the disorderly (3:11-15)."

### C. The message

1. Paul wrote this second letter to "correct these misunderstands about the coming of Christ (2:1-12) and to encourage the brethren to discipline the disorderly (3:11-15)."

## III. The Content Of II Thessalonians

### A. Basic outline

1. Encouragement (1)
2. Teaching (2)
3. Admonition (3)

### B. More in-depth outline

1. Greeting (1:1-2)
2. Assurance Even In Persecution (1:3-12)
3. Correcting The Second Coming Errors (2:1-12)
4. An Exhortation To Faithfulness (2:13-17)
5. Paul's Hope For Them (3:1-5)
6. Admonishing The Disorderly (3:6-15)
7. Final Greetings (3:16-18)

### B. Key words

1. Lord/Jesus/Christ (48)
2. God (18)
3. Not/Nothing (14)
4. To do/work/function (10)
5. Faith/faithful (10)
6. Glory/glorify (7)

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### C. Key passage

1. **II Th 2:15-17** “So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.”

### CONCLUSION

1. Brethren as we continue through this great letter let us learn from the powerful lessons therein and take them and make them apart of our lives.
  - a. Let us use them to mold us until we have the mind of Christ.
2. Question: Are you willing to make sure you always discipline yourself in Christ for Christ?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**