

Study Questions

For New Testament Books of the Bible

2 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of 2 Thessalonians? When was this letter written? Where was the author writing from and to whom was this letter written? Why did the author write this letter?
2. What is significant about the way Paul opens most of his letters to the new churches (see verses 3 and 4)?
3. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What persecutions and hardships was Paul speaking of in verses 4-6?
4. In what way/how does Paul tell the Thessalonian church God will respond to their persecutions (v.5-7)?
5. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Based on Paul's statements about the Second Coming in his last letter to the church at Thessalonica (see 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:1-10), how did the Thessalonians misconstrue and react to Paul's words?
6. **REFLECTION:** While waiting on the Second Coming, to quit work and become idle is clearly a mistake. What should we be doing while waiting on Christ to return to the earth?
7. In what manner does Paul say Jesus will return (v.7, 8)?
8. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What is the "everlasting" (KJ, NIV, NLT1) or "eternal" (CEV, NLT2) destruction, is Paul referring to in verse 9? Define the term "eternal destruction" as it is used in the Bible. Cite the scripture(s) where this term is defined and not merely mentioned.

2 Thessalonians Chapter 2

1. What was Paul's purpose in writing chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians?
2. In verses 2 and 3, why did Paul admonish the Thessalonians to not be troubled, alarmed or fooled?
3. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** In 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, Paul tells us that, *"....Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers...."* How do we discern if someone is a minister of God or a false prophet out to advance Satan's agenda if that person has the power to perform signs and miracles similar to those performed by Christ?
4. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What is the common name of the person Paul refers to in verse 3 as.... the man of lawlessness (NIV, NLT), the son of perdition (KJV, NKJV), the wicked one (CEV)?
5. What does Paul mean in verse 6, when he says about the man of lawlessness, "And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes."
6. **REFLECTION:** Why would/will God allow the anti-christ to rule prior to the Second Coming of Christ?
7. Verses 10-12 says that God will allow many on the way to destruction to be deceived and that He (God) will condemn them for it. Why would God allow this?
8. How can a person insure that they do not fall victim to the "evil one's" deceptions?
9. In this chapter, what does Paul tell us will eventually happen to this evil one, this man of lawlessness (v.8)?
10. Recap and discuss the events that will happen prior to the Second Coming of the Lord that Paul speaks of **in this chapter** only?

2 Thessalonians Chapter 3

1. Who is the “us” Paul is asking the Thessalonian Christians to pray for in verse 1?
2. What is Paul’s purpose in this chapter (3) of 2 Thessalonians? What is he trying to tell the members of the church at Thessalonica?
3. **SELAH/HISTORY LESSON:** In verse 10, Paul says, *Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: “Whoever does not work should not eat.”*
Who was the person, as well as, when and where did that person, introduce the first recorded incidence of the biblical concept of “no work, no food” in America?
4. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Why should we not be idle in our lives and instead, “never tire of doing good?” (See v.11-13).
5. In verse 14, how does Paul say we should treat those Christians who are not leading a Christian life?
6. **SUMMARY BOOK REVIEW:** 2 Thessalonians consists of only three chapters. Recap in one or two sentences Paul’s purpose and instructions to the Thessalonians and believers everywhere in each of the three chapters.