
CHRISTIAN WORKER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

PRESENTED BY:

I & II Thessalonians

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THE CHRISTIAN WORKER BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

The vision of the Christian Worker Program is that all who hunger and thirst for the truth of God's word should be filled. In offering these Bible studies, we hope to meet the need of those who desire to become more acquainted with the Word of God. As you study, we pray that your faith will be strengthened and that your desire for the deeper things of God will be increased.

The Christian Worker Bible Studies Series is basically designed for individual study; however, group study is also encouraged. Many times a deeper search is made into God's word if more than one participate. The only additional text used is the Bible.

Each study contains questions along with blank spaces for your written answer. Comments are added both to clarify and to stimulate interest. The Introductory booklet should be studied first in order to better grasp the full potential of the Christian Worker Program.

A small donation is requested for each study to cover basic costs.

A certificate of award is available upon completion of this study. Please contact your #1 link or Mini-Bible School Director for your certificate.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY:

Only your Bible is needed to complete this study.

(Note: Additional Bible versions often give you greater insight.)

Pray before you begin and ask the Lord to enlighten your spiritual understanding.

Read the question carefully and then read the Bible text at least twice.

(Reading the text aloud is of great value.)

Work on your study regularly. If you lay it aside, you will lose the flow and continuity of the lesson.

As you complete each lesson or chapter, mentally summarize what you have just learned.

Other helps such as commentaries or devotional books can add greater depth to your studies.

A DEFINITE PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED IN STUDYING GOD'S WORD. THE BENEFITS RECEIVED ARE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE TIME AND EFFORT INVESTED. GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR STUDIES.

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I THESSALONIANS

The church at Thessalonica was founded by the apostle Paul during his second missionary journey. (Read Acts 17:1-9.) The first epistle to the Thessalonians was written by Paul from the city of Corinth about one year later, with the second epistle following not long after.

Paul wrote I Thessalonians to encourage, commend and instruct. The theme running throughout this book is the certain return of the Lord and the obligations we have in this present world before His return. The church is now awaiting to be **caught up** to heaven in the Rapture. At the actual return or second coming of Christ, we will **descend** with the Lord from heaven. This will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation and will usher in 1,000 years of peace on earth--the Millennium.

The remaining instruction from both epistles is directed at clearing up various misconceptions of the Thessalonians. Some of the Thessalonians had quit their jobs and were becoming a burden to other people. In both letters, Paul declares the responsibility of each one to provide for his own. Other problems required instruction in holy, separated living. Also, controversy and questions prevailed as to when the resurrection of the dead would occur; some thought that the dead had missed the Kingdom of God. God used all these misconceptions and questions to bring forth the important teachings in these epistles.

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER ONE - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 1 is filled with commendation. Before Paul instructs and exhorts in the chapters to follow, he first encourages the Thessalonians; he lets them know that they are a dynamic church. As you study this chapter notice their outstanding qualities.

Although verse 1 states nothing about the physical position of the Thessalonian church, it does their **spiritual position**.

1. Where is the church of Thessalonica? v. 1 _____

The most important quality of a dynamic church is that it operates within the will of God and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

2. The Thessalonians had three particular characteristics. What were they? v. 3

3. The gospel came to the Thessalonians not in word only, but also in _____
and in the _____
and in much _____. v. 5
4. Who were the Thessalonians following? v. 6 _____
5. How was the word received? v. 6 _____
6. Who looked at the Thessalonians as examples? v. 7 _____

This statement is the greatest commendation of all. Others were looking at the Thessalonians as an example of a righteous and powerful church. They were so widely known for their faith to God that Paul needed not to speak anything concerning them. (v. 8)

7. Verse nine states that the Thessalonians turned from _____ to serve the living and true _____.
8. From what has Jesus delivered us? v. 10 _____

CHAPTER TWO - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapters 2 and 3 show **how** this Thessalonian church became so dynamic. Unceasing prayer, sacrifice and labor can be found behind every powerful church. The Thessalonian church was built on such a foundation. Paul speaks of laboring night and day in verse 9, and he mentions unceasing prayer in Chapter 1, verses 2 and 3. In verse 7, Paul reveals his sacrificial love for the Thessalonians as he likens his ministry to "a nurse cherishing her children."

1. Verse 1 says that Paul's visit to the Thessalonians was not in _____
2. How had Paul been treated at Philippi? v. 2 _____

Verse 2 reveals the opposition Paul faced everywhere he ministered. Commitment brings persecution. A man or woman who is wholly dedicated to the Lord will face much contention and be shamefully treated at times. Verse 4 reveals why we continue on in spite of opposition.

3. Who did Paul desire to please when he preached the gospel? v. 4 _____

Each of us has been entrusted with the gospel. Our responsibility is to share it. Yet, we often "water it down" to make it pleasing to men. Our testimony should be straightforward and true, seeking only to please God.

4. Besides the gospel, what was Paul willing to impart to the Thessalonians? v. 8 _____
5. To care for his own needs and as well as ministering to the Thessalonians, Paul labored _____
_____ v.9

6. How did Paul behave himself among the Thessalonians? v. 10 _____
7. In what manner did Paul exhort and comfort this church? v. 11 _____
8. What are we called to? v. 12 _____
9. How did the Thessalonians receive Paul's ministry of the Word of God? v.13 _____
10. Who persecuted the Thessalonians? v. 14 _____

The Jews were the persecutors of the early church. Years of rejecting their own prophets finally led to the ultimate rejection of the greatest Prophet of all, the Lord Jesus Christ. That God's own chosen people should so fiercely reject their Messiah is a great tragedy.

11. What five things are said about the Jews in verse 15?

12. What has come upon the Jews for their rebellion? v. 16 _____
 13. Paul was taken from the Thessalonians in _____ but not in _____ v. 17
 14. Who hindered Paul from going to Thessalonica? v. 18 _____
 15. What is Paul's hope, joy or crown of rejoicing? v. 19 _____
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CHAPTER THREE - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Paul was extremely concerned about the Thessalonian believers. From the beginning of this epistle, the Holy Spirit has painted for us a vivid picture of the heart of Paul toward his spiritual children. Read again Chapter 2, verses 7-9 and 11.

Paul said Satan had hindered him from coming to minister again in Thessalonica. In Chapter 3, verse 1 Paul reveals that he could finally wait no longer for some word from his "children." Even though he apparently needed Timothy's assistance at Athens, he was willing to labor alone just so he could send Timothy to Thessalonica.

1. What two things was Timotheus (Timothy) sent to do? v. 2 _____

Paul did not seek sympathy for his trials and afflictions but rather sought to express the right attitude in the face of adversity.

2. Verse 3 says that no man should be _____ by _____
3. What had Paul previously told the Thessalonians? v. 4 _____
4. What was Paul anxious to find out? v. 5 _____

Rumors had been circulating in the Thessalonian church that Paul's reason for not returning to visit was because he didn't really care about them. Nothing could have been further from the truth! In spite of all the rumors the church stood firm, and Timothy returned to Paul with a good report.

5. Timothy returned with good tidings concerning what two things? v. 6 _____

6. What was Paul comforted by? v. 7 _____
7. What was Paul praying for night and day? v. 10 _____

Paul was not suggesting that they lacked faith for salvation. He was referring to the faith needed for a daily victorious walk with the Lord.

8. Toward whom were the Thessalonians to abound in love? v. 12 _____
9. How can God establish our hearts? v. 13 _____

CHAPTER FOUR - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Having thoroughly established a loving and committed relationship with his "children," Paul now ministers on a very practical level. He wants each member of the body to be able to stand blameless before the Lord at His return for the church.

1. The Thessalonians received from Paul how they ought to _____ and to _____ v.1
2. What is the will of God? v. 3 _____
3. From what did Paul exhort them to abstain? v. 3 _____
4. In what way were the Thessalonians "to possess their vessel" (manage their body)? _____

5. About what did Paul forewarn the Thessalonians? v. 6 _____
6. God has not called us unto _____ but unto _____ v.7

Verse 8 says if anyone despises this requirement of holiness and sanctification, they are rejecting God Himself.

7. What has God given us? v. 8 _____
8. What were the Thessalonians taught by God? v. 9 _____

Our carnal nature does not have the capacity to love as God does. When His Spirit is within us, God Himself teaches us to love one another.

9. What three things were the Thessalonians instructed to study? v. 11 _____
10. For what two reasons were they to do these things? v. 12 _____

In verses 11 and 12, Paul was dealing with the brethren who had quit their jobs in order to wait for the Lord's return. These unemployed Thessalonians were depending upon their brothers and sisters in the Lord to support them and their families. This behavior was not only a bad testimony to others, but also an unnecessary burden for their fellow Christians.

This teaching is also necessary for today. An extreme disrespect for hard work and responsibility has swept across our nation and has even affected the church. We must learn and teach that "working with our hands" is not only pleasing to God, but is commanded by Him.

11. What does II Thessalonians 3:10 say about someone who will not work? _____

Read Ephesians 6:5-8. These scriptures show that through being good "servants of **masters**" (or employees), we can also be "servants of **Christ**" (v. 6) and can lay up treasure in heaven (v. 8). "Working with our hands" does not need to be a distraction, but rather can be a channel through which we serve the Lord!

Verses 13 through 18 concern the return of Christ for His bride--the Rapture of the church. Paul writes to clear up some misconceptions about Christians who die before the Rapture. These verses give positive assurance concerning those who are "asleep in the Lord."

12. This positive assurance alleviates all sorrow for believers. Who are the ones who will sorrow? v.13 _____

13. Who shall rise first? vv. 15,16 _____
14. When the Lord descends from heaven the following three things will occur: v. 16 _____

15. How long will we be with the Lord? v. 17 _____

Truly we can comfort one another with these words! As we watch ungodliness take over this world, we can look forward to the "Good Thief" coming in the "night" to take His precious bride! However, along with such a great promise comes the great responsibility to prepare ourselves.

CHAPTER FIVE - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In Chapter 5, Paul continues to instruct the Thessalonians concerning the Lord's return for His church. He also includes practical teachings in which he admonishes their attitudes toward church leadership and one another.

1. How will the day of the Lord come? v. 2 _____
2. What will happen while everyone is saying "peace and safety"? v. 3 _____

3. For what reason will the day of the Lord **not** overtake believers as a thief in the night? vv. 4,5

4. In verse 6 Paul says that we should not sleep, but that we should _____
and be _____.
5. According to verse 7, what two pieces of armor are we exhorted to put on? v. 8 _____

6. To what have we been appointed? v. 9 _____
7. Why did Jesus die for us? v. 10 _____
8. What kind of attitude were the Thessalonians instructed to have towards their leaders? v. 13

Verses 14 and 15 give an example of practical Christianity. Christianity is not words that we say . . . it is the life that we live.

Verses 16-22 contain some excellent "short but to-the-point" exhortations.

9. What are we told to do in verse 16? _____

10. Do you think this rejoicing includes both times of blessing and of affliction? _____

11. For which things should we thank the Lord? v. 18 _____

Verse 20 teaches us to never despise the Word of God. Sometimes the truth hurts, but we must love the truth and hold fast that which is good.

12. According to verse 22, should we abstain from something that may look evil to others, even if it is not evil? _____

13. What did Paul pray would be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? v. 23

When we are saved, we stand completely righteous and blameless before God, inwardly. However, a progressive sanctification must take place outwardly. Paul was praying that their **whole** man would be blameless at the return of Christ for His church.

14. Who should read this epistle? v. 27 _____

II THESSALONIANS

II Thessalonians was written a few months after I Thessalonians. Paul was still in Corinth when he received a report of the church at Thessalonica. He felt compelled to write and give further instruction. He reinforced some of the truths brought out in I Thessalonians and went into further depth about the Rapture of the church. Someone had written a letter to the church saying that they were living in the Great Tribulation and had signed Paul's name to this letter! (II Thessalonians 2:2) Paul clearly instructs the Thessalonians about the Great Tribulation and the return of the Lord.

CHAPTER ONE - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

As in the first epistle, Paul begins this letter with a commendation. He also encourages them to stand strong in the midst of the trials that are coming upon them.

1. What is our only source of grace and true peace? v. 2 _____
2. Why was Paul bound to thank God always for the brethren at Thessalonica? v. 3 _____

3. What is the manifest token of the righteous judgment of God? v. 5 _____

4. Who will recompense tribulation to those who trouble us? v. 6 _____
5. Who will the Lord Jesus take vengeance upon at His return? v. 8 _____

6. How will these ones be punished? v. 9 _____

7. In whom shall the Lord Jesus be glorified? v. 10 _____
8. What did Paul pray for the Lord to fulfill in the Thessalonians? v. 11 _____

CHAPTER TWO - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Because of the persecution that had come upon the Thessalonians, many of them believed they were in the Great Tribulation--the Day of the Lord. As an example of this persecution, believers were required to bow down before a statue of Caesar which had been erected in the market place; their refusal to do so cost them their lives. These times were very trying for the Thessalonian church. Therefore, in Chapter 2 Paul explains the details concerning the Antichrist and his appearing. This chapter is one of the most informative in the Bible concerning the events of the latter days.

1. What were the Thessalonians not to be shaken or troubled about? v. 2 _____

2. What two things must happen before that day comes? v. 3 _____

The "man of sin" and "son of perdition" is the Antichrist.

3. To what degree will the Antichrist exalt himself? v. 4 _____

4. Who does Antichrist show himself to be? v. 4 _____

The prefix "anti" means "against or opposed to" Christ.

Verses 7 and 8 contain a vivid picture of the Holy Spirit at work. The presence of the Holy Spirit on earth constitutes the only restraint against a flood of iniquity and the revelation of Antichrist. At the Rapture of the church, the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way; He will no longer restrain the powers of sin. Then the Antichrist shall be revealed.

5. How will the Lord consume and destroy the Antichrist? v. 8 _____

This event will occur at the end of the Tribulation, at the second coming of the Lord, when He shall return to the earth with His saints. (Revelation 19:11-21)

6. What are some of the works of the Antichrist? vv. 9,10 _____

7. Why will the unrighteous be so easily deceived? v. 10 _____

8. Who will send these ones strong delusion? v. 11 _____

When God sees hearts that are "bent on sin," He allows them to plunge into the darkness they desire. (Read John 3:19.)

9. Verse 12 says that the ungodly take pleasure in _____
10. Through what two means does God bring us into salvation? v. 13 _____

11. What are we called to obtain or possess? v. 14 _____

12. How are we told to stand in verse 15? _____

Paul did not want the Thessalonians to be moved by every wind of doctrine. He desired that they take what they had learned and stand upon it, so as not to be moved by liars or deceivers who spread heresies.

13. What has the Lord Jesus Christ and God given us? v. 16 _____

14. What two things should we be established in? v. 17 _____

CHAPTER THREE - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In this chapter, Paul gives the Thessalonians final words of encouragement and instruction.

1. What two things does Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray for? vv. 1,2

2. In what does Paul express complete confidence? v. 4 _____

3. From whom should the Thessalonians withdraw themselves? v. 6 _____

In verses 7-12, Paul uses the example of his own conduct to exhort the Thessalonians to work. When Paul had previously visited Thessalonica, he had the scriptural right as a minister of the gospel to receive financial support from the congregation. However, he chose to forego this right, preferring instead to work diligently "with his own hands." He wanted to set an example for all believers.

4. What did Paul command in verse 10? _____

5. What command does Paul give to those who are not working? v. 12 _____

6. What should the Thessalonians do if a man refuses to obey the commands given by Paul? v. 14

Paul originally dealt with this problem of disobedience in I Thessalonians. Now several months later, many of the Thessalonians were still not obeying his words. Paul did not want this irresponsible attitude spreading throughout the church.

7. When and how does the Lord of peace give us peace? v. 16 _____

We trust that in your study of the epistles to the Thessalonians it is apparent that Christians can have joy and victory even in the midst of tribulation, and this victory and joy comes through the hope which each Christian has--the hope of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

We encourage you to continue your study of the Word of God through these Bible studies. May you always strive to be prepared for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, through your study and obedience to His word.

I have answered all questions to the best of my ability.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____