



Bible Book Club

1Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians

- Author:** Paul, Timothy, Silvanus (Silas)
- Time:** Around A.D. 50
- Genre:** Epistle (letter from an Apostle)
- Audience:** Newly established church in Thessalonica
- Purpose:** Paul's purpose in writing 1 Thessalonians was to encourage the new converts in their trials (3:3-5); to give instruction concerning godly living (4:1-12) and to give assurance concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns (4:13-18).

2 Thessalonians has four major teachings:
The greatness of God
The wonder of salvation in Christ
The second coming
The importance of life and work each day

Background: Acts 17

Outline:

1 Thessalonians

- 1:1–10 Highlights the work of the triune God in electing/choosing (1 Thessalonians 1:4), calling (1 Thessalonians 1:5), and saving (1 Thessalonians 10) the Thessalonian church, and also highlights the work of the church in modeling (1 Thessalonians 1:6–7) and presenting (1 Thessalonians 1:8) the gospel to a watching world.
- 2:1–16 Paul defends his conduct as a minister of the gospel, drawing the Thessalonians' attention to his behavior and approach among them.
- 2:17-3:10 Paul explains his absence from the Thessalonians and Sending of Timothy.
- 3:11-13 The Prayer and benediction

- 4:1-12 Instruction on Living to please God
 - 4:1-3 How to walk and to please God.
 - 4:3-8 Instructions regarding sexual purity.
 - 4:9-10 Live a life of increasing love.
 - 4:11 Live a quiet life and a life of work
 - 4:12 Live a life that is an example, lacking nothing.

- 4:13–5:11 Instruction on the Return of the Lord
 - 4:13-18 Living and deceased believers have equal hope
 - 5:1-11 Instruction about readiness for Jesus' return
 - 5:1-3 The return of the Lord is uncertain
 - 5:4-8 The church needs to alert
 - 5:9-11 Believers have assurance

- 5:12-22 Final Instructions
 - 5:12-13 Respect Christian leaders
 - 5:14-15 Care for fellow Christians.
 - 5:16-18 Always be thankful
 - 5:19-22 Test Everything

- 5:23-24 Benediction

- 5:23-24 Complete sanctification as God's work in us

- 5:25-28 Request for Prayer

2 Thessalonians

- 1:1-2 Salutation

- 1:3-10 Perseverance in the Midst of Persecutions
 - 1:3-4 Growth in Christian faith, love, and perseverance inspire thanksgiving
 - 1:5-7 God is just, and will help His people who suffer injustice.
 - 1:7-10 Christ's return will provide ultimate justice.

- 1:11-12 Prayer helps God's people fulfill their purpose and glorify Christ.

- 2:1-12 Correction Concerning the Day of the Lord
 - 2:1-2 Despite deceptive reports, Christ has not returned.

2:3-8 The man of lawlessness must appear before Christ returns.

2:9-12 Deceived followers of lawlessness will perish.

2:13-17 Reminder Concerning their Destiny

2:13-14 God chose us to share Christ's glory

2:15 God calls you to firm commitment to His teachings

2:16-17 Benediction: Encouragement and hope comes from God's grace

3:1-2 Request for Prayer

3:3 God is faithful to protect his people

3:4-5 God's people are faithful to follow His will

3:6-13 God's people must become lazy busybodies

3:14-15 Disobedient people must receive brotherly discipline

3:16-18 Final Greetings

Challenge Yourself:

1. What are some of the characteristics of a concerned minister?
2. 1 Thessalonians deals with some of the problems faced by the young church. What were some of the problems the Thessalonian church faced?
3. What are characteristics of the man of lawlessness?
4. What we should or should not do as we wait for the return of Christ?