

Thessalonians (1 & 2)

1. **Written by whom?**

First Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul's letters. There is no real opposition to his authorship.

2. **Written when and where?**

Because of information in the book of Acts, this letter can be confidently dated in the spring of A.D. 50. When the Lord stopped Paul from going into Asia, Paul ended up (after a winding path) in Thessalonica. The letter itself was written from Corinth, where Paul was waiting for one of his several trials.

3. **Written to whom?**

This letter was written to those people who believed in the Gospel after Paul's teaching. It was a mix of Jews, God-fearing Gentiles, and prominent women.

4. **What form?**

The letter is written in the traditional Greco-Roman format.

5. **What's it about?**

Paul's protégé Timothy went to check on the new congregation. After Timothy's return, Paul wrote this letter to help them with different issues and questions that had arisen.

6. **Written for what purpose?**

From Timothy's report Paul had good news and bad news. The Thessalonian converts were living as faithfully as they knew how, which was good. Paul's reputation was under attack, there was confusion about the Lord's return, and there were areas of individual and community life that needed improvement. These issues needed to be corrected.

Paul's Missionary Journeys and Where Thessalonians Was Written



I Thessalonians Chapter 1 – Scripture Questions

1. The 1st Letter to the Thessalonians was written by what three people? (vs. 1)
2. Silvanus is the Latin name for _____ (vs. 1)
3. In his prayers, Paul remembers three things about the Thessalonians (vs. 3)
their work of _____,
their labor of _____ and
their steadfastness of _____.
4. There were four ways that the Gospel came to the Thessalonians (vs. 5) – what were they?
In _____,
in _____,
in the _____ _____,
and with full _____
5. How did the Thessalonians receive the word? (vs. 6)
6. Who did the Thessalonians become an example to? (vs. 7)
7. The Thessalonians turned from what to serve who? (vs. 9)
8. For what were the Thessalonian believers waiting? (vs. 10)

I Thessalonians Chapter 1 – What Did It Mean to Them?

Paul ended up in Thessalonica after his initial plans to visit Asia were changed by divine intervention. The city was fairly good sized, around 200,000 people. There was a good natural harbor. There were enough Jewish merchants that there was a well-established synagogue. It was a free city, ruled by its own council of citizens and run by five or six "politarchs". It had been the seat of Roman government for all of Macedonia.

The synagogue was the obvious place for Paul to start. For three Sabbaths, he spoke there, but was forced (by the usual Jewish resistance) to continue his ministry outside the synagogue. While there, he worked a trade. We aren't quite certain how long he was there, but it was certainly long enough to leave a thriving church behind. While working in Thessalonica, Paul received at least two special gifts for his support.

After a period of evangelizing, there was a large enough congregation of Jews, God-fearing Gentiles, and prominent women that the local Jews became jealous. So they created riots to force the city rulers to go against the Christians, whom they accused of upsetting society and opposing Caesar's decrees (Acts 17:5-9). Eventually the city officials let Jason and other believers go. After this, Paul and Silas (and perhaps Timothy) knew it was time to leave to as to avoid bringing additional trouble on their new brothers and sisters.

A short time later, Paul was still concerned about the new congregation in Thessalonica, so he sent Timothy to them to bring back a report. Paul knew they were suffering persecution, and he was concerned that their new faith was being tested in ways they were not yet equipped to sustain.

This letter has a number of themes. Paul teaches about the inspiration and authority of Scripture, the doctrine of one true God in three persons, the truth of Jesus Christ's divine nature, and several others. Probably the biggest contribution to Christian theology is in what the letters say about the end times and Christ's return, something apparently of great concern to the Thessalonians.

I Thessalonians Chapter 1 – Application Questions

1. Who do you mention constantly in your prayers? Who needs our prayers this week?
2. When Paul, Silas and Timothy founded the Thessalonian church, some of the converts were Jews and some were pagans. In other words, he took believers from other religions. Should we still do this? Why or why not?
3. People sometimes imitate us. I feel like a hypocrite sometimes because I know I'm not always a good example. What should I do?
4. If people were to start talking about this Sunday School class – what would they say? What would you like them to say?

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I Thessalonians Chapter 2 – Scripture Questions

1. Paul's first visit to the Thessalonians was NOT a _____ (vs. 1)
2. With the help of _____ and in spite of strong _____ Paul told the gospel. (vs. 2)
3. Who approved of what Paul was doing? Who did Paul want to please? (vs. 4)
4. Which parental characteristics did Paul list in verses 7-12?

5. Paul was thankful because the Thessalonians received the Gospel not as _____, but as it actually is, the _____. (vs. 13)
6. Who did the believers imitate? (vs. 14)
7. Who did the believers suffer from? (vs. 14)
8. Why were the Jews hostile, displeasing God? (vs. 16)
9. How high were the Jews heaping up their sins? (vs. 16)
10. How does Paul think of the Thessalonians? (vs. 20)

I Thessalonians Chapter 2 – What did it mean to them?

While Paul and his fellow missionaries were very thankful for the Thessalonians, there were reasons to be writing to them, to help them understand some ideas with which they struggled. So, he now begins one of the main reasons for writing to them: he needs to explain that he did, in fact, have the proper character and ministry aims to teach and preach to the Thessalonians.

We can't exactly know who the people were that were pushing against Paul. It is at least possible that they were Jews who were committed to destroying his work, so much so that they followed him from one location to another. Paul was accused of being a self-serving faker, someone who was actually teaching treason against Rome. The constant pressure of these lies had begun to make some of the church members question Paul and his teachings.

Paul doesn't scold the Thessalonians. Instead, he begins by correcting the claim that he was mistaken about his beliefs. No, says Paul, his message was completely aligned with truth. Next, he addresses the claim that he had "impure motives", which seems to imply that he was preaching to give him sexual access to the church members. This, unfortunately, was common among traveling religious teachers, so Paul has to specifically address this issue. Also false was the accusation that Paul was trying to trick his audience. He had, after all, been approved by God to preach and teach the Gospel. He would not flatter his listeners, nor try to satisfy greed on his part, or look for praise from them.

Instead, Paul describes how he lived among them, treated them with gentleness and care. He encouraged and comforted them, urging them to live worthy of the gospel. He wanted them to live up to the high calling that came with their salvation. This was going to include faithful living in the face of persecution. Paul reminds them that God was on their side, and that the people who were opposing both Paul and the Thessalonians would be punished for their sins. The Thessalonians, in contrast, would be ready for the return of Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians Chapter 2 – Application Questions

1. The Christians in Thessalonica were being worn down by the lies of those who opposed Paul. What can we do to strengthen ourselves against persistent lies?
2. Paul supported himself by working during his missionary work. Should ministers be self-supporting? Why would that work / not work in our congregation?
3. Paul was working night and day – sounds like a prescription for burn-out. Nowadays, clergy are taught to be careful about life/work balance. How much time should be spent on church work by clergy? What about church members?
4. Is it always true that if you are serving God then you will be persecuted? Why or why not?

I Thessalonians Chapter 3 – Scripture Questions

1. Where was Paul when he sent Timothy to Thessalonica? (vs. 1)
2. Timothy was a good choice, but what did Paul want him to do for the Thessalonians? (vs. 2)
3. What was Paul trying to protect the Thessalonians from? (vs. 3, 4)
4. Who was a danger to the believers in Thessalonica? (vs. 5)
5. Timothy's report was encouraging! What did he tell Paul? (vs. 6)
6. How does Paul describe the faith of these believers? (vs. 8)
7. What was Paul's prayer for the believers? (vs. 10)
8. What was Paul's prayer for himself? (vs. 11)
9. How would their love for one another grow? (vs. 12)
10. When the Lord comes again, how will he change hearts? (vs. 13)

I Thessalonians Chapter 3 – What did it mean to them?

Paul finally couldn't wait any longer to find out how the Thessalonian church was doing: he sent Timothy, his protégé, to check up on them and make sure they were taught and encouraged properly.

When this letter was written, Paul was in Athens, which was an important, pagan Greek city. The people there prided themselves on knowing about many different gods and religions, and were almost indifferent to Paul's teaching about the Gospel. In addition to Paul's struggle to make headway against the arrogance and resistance of the Athenians, he was still recovering from his persecutions (both spiritual and physical). There was a group of Jews that followed him from town to town, undermining his work and trying to break down those who accepted the Gospel. Paul's own difficulties were not nearly as important to him as his fears for those he had brought to faith.

There was a mixture of peoples and cultures in the Thessalonian church: Jews, God-fearing Gentiles, and women who were important in the local area. It is easy to imagine that these people, though bound together by their salvation in Jesus and faithfulness to the leading of the Holy Spirit, struggled with day-to-day interactions. The persistent attacks by the local and out-of-town Jews would have made things more difficult. According to Timothy's report, however, the believers were holding fast to one another in love. Their resistance to attack had been to cling to one another, trusting in Jesus and the Comforter to keep them safe.

The very last verse of this chapter touches on a subject that had been worrying the Thessalonians. This problem was the return of Jesus. Paul says (NIV), "when our Lord Jesus comes". The believers had been struggling because some of their number had died. There were questions about what would happen to them. Paul will be answering their concerns in the next couple of chapters.

I Thessalonians Chapter 3 – Application Questions

1. Even Paul worried about things, as he worried about the faith of the Thessalonians. He sent Timothy to find out how they were doing. How do we handle worries about other people? About ourselves?
2. It seems as though Paul got confirmation of his mission through the faith of his converts. How am I supposed to measure my success at being a Christian?
3. Paul wanted to come and “supply what is lacking” in their faith (3:10, NIV). He was an apostle, so I guess he had the right to decide what they needed. What about me? Am I supposed to figure out what I’m lacking by myself, or are my church leaders supposed to tell me/teach me? That seems kind of nosy. Isn’t faith a private matter?
4. Paul said the Thessalonians were doing well, and yet he wanted them to do better and better. Where does this kind of thing end? When are my efforts good enough? Can I never stop and say, “I’ve done well, I can stop now”?

I Thessalonians Chapter 4 – Scripture Questions

1. For what reason did Paul urge the Thessalonians to live as they had been taught? (vs. 1)
2. Why should the believers be careful to live a moral sexual life? (vs. 3)
3. How should bodies be controlled? (vs. 4)
4. What would happen to believers who took advantage of a brother or sister? (vs. 6)
5. Who was actually giving these instructions on how to live a holy (set apart, committed) life in Jesus? (vs. 8)
6. How does Paul describe a “quiet life”, which he is encouraging them to live? (vs. 11, 12)
7. Why did Paul explain to the Thessalonians what happened to those who died before Jesus returned? (vs. 13)
8. What did Paul believe about Jesus and his return? (vs. 14)
9. Who told Paul how the Lord’s return would take place? (vs. 15)
10. When Jesus returns, what is the order in which believers will join him—forever? (vs. 17-18)

I Thessalonians Chapter 4 – What did it mean to them?

Paul had, on his original mission to the Thessalonians, given them instructions on how to live as believers. It must have been reassuring to his readers to hear that he knew they were doing their best to live up to the standards they had been taught. He tells them here that they can't rest in their current situation, but that they needed to work to improve. This type of work is common to all believers: we are called, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to continually try to be more like Jesus. This is not to make ourselves good enough for salvation, but in response to the salvation that we have received.

In pagan cities, worship at the temples very often (though not always) included temple prostitution. Both men and women served in this worship, and it was not considered immoral at all. This attitude carried over into their secular lives. In that society, having sex with non-marital partners was not immoral, though it could be used as grounds for divorce. This was because it was a breach of contract between married couples, not because it was wrong or sinful. It would not have been strange at all that the Thessalonians would slip back into this attitude towards sexual activity. The Jewish people, of course, had a very different cultural background and attitude. This went back to the centuries of instruction from the Lord. He often, through the prophets, compared his relationship with Israel to that of a marriage, stressing the need for commitment and faithfulness. This carried over into Jewish attitudes toward sexual immorality. In Paul's view, having sexual relations with a person to whom you were not married was not just destructive to the marriage: it was a form of idolatry.

Nothing wreaks havoc in a Christian community more than the unwillingness of some to take responsibility for the work of maintaining the community. This actually is destructive of the love that should exist between believers. It seems that some of the believers in Thessalonica were taking advantage of the generosity of others. Paul tells them (gently but firmly) to get back to work.

Some of the Thessalonian believers had died, and there was concern about what would happen to them since Jesus had not yet returned. The early church lived in anticipation of his return, expecting it at any day. Paul's reassurance to them was a great comfort to these people. Those who were "asleep" would join Jesus first, then all believers who were still alive. This is still a comfort to all of us whose loved ones have 'gone before' to Jesus' presence.

I Thessalonians Chapter 4 – Application Questions

1. 4:11 says we should live quietly and mind our own business. How can we do this AND spread the gospel?
2. Paul seemed so certain about what was going to happen. I'm not really sure. Is that okay? Am I going to be in trouble with God if I just can't quite convince myself that Jesus is really going to come back?
3. Being a Christian seems tiring sometimes. "Don't do this," "Make sure you do that," "Help everyone who needs it,". Where am I supposed to get the energy to do all this? Who decides if I'm doing enough?
4. Just about every religion has beliefs about the afterlife. What if we've got it wrong? Will we go to hell?

I Thessalonians Chapter 5 – Scripture Questions

1. How does Paul describe the time when the Lord returns? (vs. 2)
2. Will anyone be able to avoid this time of return? (vs. 3)
3. Why won't the Thessalonians be taken by surprise, even though they don't know when Jesus will return? (vs. 5, 6)
4. What will protect us in this life as we wait for Jesus' return? (vs. 8)
5. What does God want for us? (vs. 9, 10)
6. Because God loves us and Jesus died for us, what should we do for one another? (vs. 11)
7. How did Paul want the Thessalonians to treat their leaders? (vs. 12, 13)
8. How did Paul instruct his readers to treat one another? (vs. 14, 15)
9. Paul has several instructions about practical ways to live faithful lives. List them here: (vs. 16-22)
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
10. Who will make the believers holy, and what does that include? (vs. 23, 24)

I Thessalonians Chapter 5 – What did it mean to them?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could somehow peek in as Paul was starting a new church? What did he tell them first? What ideas did he emphasize? Unfortunately, the best we can do is examine the questions he seems to be answering in his letters to the churches. He begins this section with a reference to "times and dates" that he had already taught them. Scholars of word usage tell us that he was referring to both a particular time when predictions would be fulfilled and the actual events that would happen when the predictions were fulfilled. So evidently he had already taught them about Jesus' return.

Paul also reminded them about "the day of the Lord". This was another phrase that was well known to the believers in Thessalonica. It was associated with the ultimate defeat of God's enemies, a day of deliverance for Israel as a nation and a day of salvation. The Jewish Christians believed that there would be a time of pain and trouble before the Messiah's return. Paul reminds his readers that this pain and trouble wouldn't affect them: they will be with Jesus, protected. So why does Paul have to remind them of what they already know? Because false teachers had been troubling them.

So why does Paul remind the Thessalonians about these subjects? He seems to be trying to get them to balance their lives. They have on one hand a joyful, secure certainty about their salvation and Jesus' return. At the same time they need to live practically, treating one another well and persistently growing to be more like Jesus. The work of salvation had been done by God himself, and they were saved. Now, in response to that salvation, they were called to live committed to Christian fellowship. They were children of the light, instructed to live up to their calling.

The next section of the letter is focused on the responsibilities of believers: responsibilities to the leaders, those who taught and lead the body; responsibilities to others in the congregation, using patience and love; and responsibilities to the inner life, with prayer and an attitude of grateful joy.

Based on the way Paul speaks of the Spirit's gifts (including prophecy), there had been problems with the way gifts were being used in the congregation. Perhaps people had been making things up to be considered important: perhaps some members were being over-controlling about what was done in public worship. It is possible that Paul was simply concerned that the church members use their gifts to make a positive contribution to the worship, and that mutual love was being expressed by all.

I Thessalonians Chapter 5 – Application Questions

1. Just about every religion has beliefs about the afterlife. What if we've got it wrong? Will we go to hell?
2. We are supposed to respect, honor and love our church leaders. What's the best way to do that?
3. Paul seems to think that the relationships between believers are really important. What are some good ways to build up these relationships?
4. Paul says to test everything. What do I use to do this testing?

Paul's Missionary Journeys and Where Second Thessalonians Was Written



II Thessalonians Chapter 1 – Scripture Questions

1. What was the evidence that the Thessalonians were worthy of the kingdom of God? (vs. 3)
 - a. Their _____ was growing
 - b. Their _____ was increasing
 - c. They persevered in the face of _____.
2. Who heard Paul's boasting about the Thessalonians? (vs. 4)
3. What does God's justice bring? (vs. 6, 7)
4. What will happen to those who reject God and the gospel of Jesus? (vs. 8, 9)
5. What is meant by "everlasting destruction"? (vs. 9)
6. Paul included the Thessalonians in those he called "His (Jesus') holy people." Why? (vs. 10)
7. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians. What did he want God to do for them? (vs. 11)
 - a. God would count them _____ of His calling
 - b. God would fulfill _____
 - c. God would fulfill every act prompted by _____

II Thessalonians Chapter 1 – What Did It Mean to Them?

This letter was written very soon after 1 Thessalonians—possibly only a few months. There were three main developments that made this letter important: 1) Persecution of the Thessalonians had grown more severe, and some of them were beginning to despair, 2) a fake “letter from Paul” was at the point of convincing some believers that the end time was already happening, and 3) the nearness of Christ’s return had been misused as a reason for shirking work. Therefore, Paul’s intent with this letter was to give them reasons to hang on in the face of persecution, to make clear the events that would happen on the day of the Lord, and to give instructions on how to discipline those who were refusing to work.

Paul was very excited over their progress in faith and love. Their progress was an answer to his prayer. Evidently the Thessalonians themselves were discouraged about their failures and so were unable to appreciate how much they had improved. Paul wanted them to know that he was telling the other churches about them and their love for one another.

It was undoubtedly encouraging for the Thessalonian believers to hear this confirmation of their relationship with God, and that at Christ’s coming this worthiness would be openly declared by God. The persecution they were experiencing was, in a way, proof of their standing with Christ. There must have been some comfort as well in the reassurance that those responsible for persecuting Christians would be punished. Those who denied Christ and persecuted his people would themselves be denied entrance into the Kingdom.

Paul teaches that Christians can look forward to the Lord’s coming because they will not be present in this world for the terror and misery, because their promised rest in heaven will have begun by then. With this kind of hope, they have every reason to continue in faithful living.

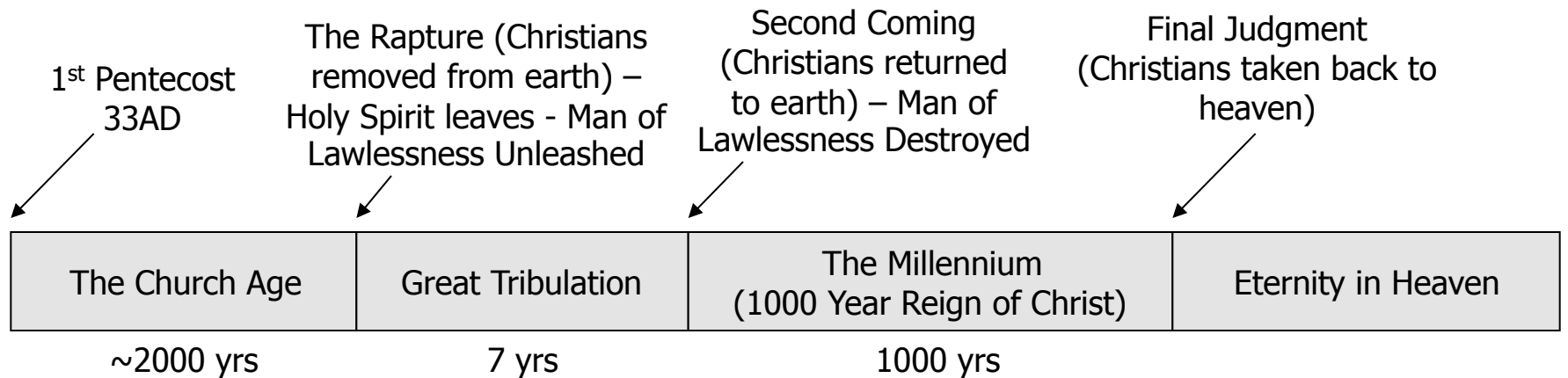
II Thessalonians Chapter 1 – Application Questions

1. Paul said the Thessalonians were growing in faith and love. We know we are saved by grace, not by good deeds or works. So how are we supposed to measure if we are growing as Christians? How can we tell if we are maturing?
2. From what Paul says, it looks like people who give us grief will pay for it at the end of the world. I know God is in charge of judgment, but is it okay if I keep a list of people that I hope will 'get theirs' when the end comes?
3. Some people disagree about Hell – some think it is literal eternal fire and others that it is a metaphor for separation from God. Which is right? Does it matter?
4. Because we are believers, our tickets to heaven are safe. Why can't we relax, spiritually speaking, and take it easy?

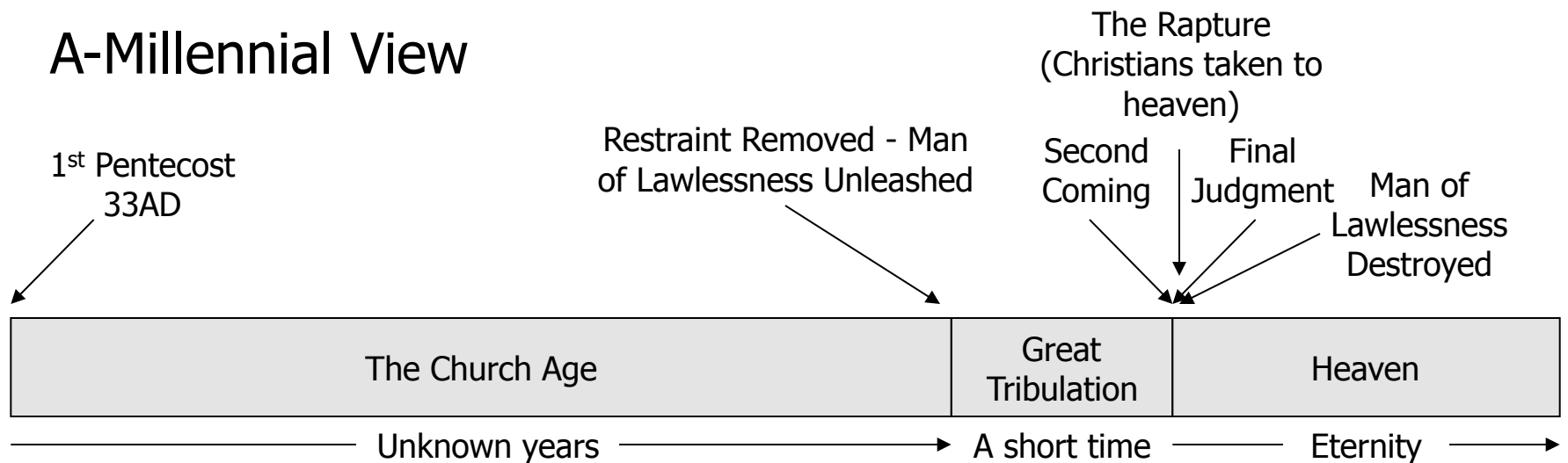
II Thessalonians Chapter 2 – Scripture Questions

1. What were the Thessalonians worried about? (vs. 1,2)
2. When would the Day of the Lord come? (vs. 3)
3. What doom will come on the Man of Lawlessness? (vs. 3)
4. What will the Man of Lawlessness oppose and what will he do? (vs. 4)
5. When will the Lawless One be revealed? (vs. 7)
6. What will destroy the Lawless One? (vs. 8)
7. How will the work of Satan be displayed? (vs. 9,10)
8. Why do the lost perish? (vs. 10)
9. Who will be condemned? (vs. 12)
10. When did God choose the Thessalonians to be saved? (vs. 13)
 1. How were the chosen saved?
 2. How were the chosen called?
 3. Why were the chosen called?
11. What did Paul want those who God chose to do? (vs. 15)
12. What did Paul pray for those who God chose? (vs. 17)

Pre-Millennial View



A-Millennial View



II Thessalonians Chapter 2 – What Did It Mean To Them?

Paul must begin by explaining what he means by “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”, otherwise the solution to their problem can’t be understood. In Paul’s understanding, the gathering of the saints in the air to meet Jesus is the event that begins ‘the day of the Lord’. Therefore, since Christ had not personally appeared, the Day had not yet come. Also, they were promised an immediate ‘rest’ and glorification with Christ, not increased persecution. Evidently the false instruction they had received said that there would be even more, and worse, persecution, possibly even martyrdom. In order to reassure the Thessalonians that they had not missed the coming of Christ, he offers more explanation to counteract the deceptions.

The word ‘rebellion’ points to a deliberate abandonment of a belief or profession. Paul is telling them that after the rapture of those who are truly believers, those who called themselves Christians but were not really believers would find it easy to turn their backs on God. This would be a world-wide anti-God movement. Following this movement, and occurring at the same time, will come the unveiling of an important, powerful person that embodies everything opposed to God. This is the person Paul calls ‘the man of lawlessness’.

Most likely the one who is currently restraining the rebellion and the man of lawlessness is the Spirit. Once the body of Christ (his church) has been taken away to heaven, the Spirit’s ministry on Earth will be at an end.

Paul seems to teach that after Christ has taken the Church/Body to heaven, Christ will return to earth to bring divine judgment on all those who oppose God. Since they have deliberately turned their backs on God, they have willingly chosen wickedness; they cannot blame anyone except themselves when their punishment occurs.

Paul closes with a prayer. He knows that he and his co-workers cannot make the appeal effective; only God himself can do this. He knows that this prayer will be answered because the Son and the Father love them.

II Thessalonians Chapter 2 – Application Questions

1. This Anti-Christ guy (the Man of Sin, the Man of Lawlessness) sounds scary – is he real or a metaphor for something?
2. Is the Man of Lawlessness alive right now? How will we recognize him?
3. A lot of people I know are living crazy, destructive lives – are they being misled by Satan or the popular leader who is against Christ?
4. Paul says we should hold firm to what we've been taught and follow the traditions we've been given. Some traditions go out of date and need to be thrown out. How can we tell when it's time to get rid of long-held traditions?

II Thessalonians Chapter 3 – Scripture Questions

1. Paul asked for prayer for two specific things. What were they? (vs. 1, 2)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. The Lord is faithful and he will _____ and _____ you from the evil one. (vs. 3)
3. Where did Paul want the Thessalonian's hearts directed? (vs. 5)
4. Who were the Thessalonians to keep away from? (vs. 6)
5. How did Paul describe the way he worked? Why did he work this way? (vs. 8, 9)
6. What was the result of idleness? (vs. 11)
7. How were the Thessalonians supposed to discipline lazy people? (vs. 14)
8. What was the distinguishing mark of Paul's letters? (vs. 17)

II Thessalonians Chapter 3 – What Did It Mean To Them?

At this point in his letter, Paul feels that he has dealt adequately with the questions and concerns about the return of Jesus Christ to this world. So he moves on, as he usually does, to ask for prayers on his behalf as he spreads the gospel. At the time he was writing from Corinth, and he was having to deal with unbelieving Jews there who were opposing him. It is worth noting that the ‘wicked and evil’ people existed because they did not have faith. Paul encourages the Thessalonians and motivates them by reminding them that God’s love and Christ’s endurance of suffering will make it possible for them to live faithfully.

Evidently there were members of the Thessalonian church who had simply stopped working because of their belief that Jesus was returning very soon. They were not only idle, they were disruptive busybodies. Interestingly, Paul does not recommend that these people be put out of the church—excommunicated—but that they not be fed. He seems to be wanting the loafers to be embarrassed and shamed into going back to work. This, of course, would give them less time to be busybodies! In Corinth, the trouble had become so large that people outside the church were commenting on it, casting disrespect on the Corinthian church. In Thessalonica the trouble was still small enough that it could be dealt with ‘in house’. These lazy brethren were not to be treated as an enemy, cut off from all contacts, but allowed to continue in worship. The lines of communication were kept open for warnings and, hopefully, for changes in behavior.

At the end, and after a pastoral prayer, Paul takes the pen into his own hand to add a closing greeting. He calls attention to it, apparently expecting churches where he had served to recall his distinctive handwriting. It was particularly needed in this letter so that it could be defended as authentic. This was one way to push back against the fraudulent letter sent to the Thessalonians.

Significantly, no one was excluded from Paul’s good wishes toward this church, not even those people who had been rebuked by him. Paul’s goal was always that people should be saved, and in a relationship with God.

II Thessalonians Chapter 3 – Application Questions

1. How specific are prayers supposed to be?
2. Is it a good idea to keep a list of the answers to prayer that we get (like a prayer journal)? Why or why not?
3. Paul says people who will not work should not eat – how do we apply this idea? Who should make the decisions about which people are fed?
4. Since our church is composed of human people, not saints, we must assume that there are members who (occasionally) cause trouble. Do you feel that embarrassment and shame are effective in making these people behave themselves? If not, how should they be corrected?