

SECOND THESSALONIANS

"When the LORD comes, he wants us to be doing our job faithfully and working for him. The parables about the Second Coming all have this emphasis. Jesus told parables about masters who were delayed in coming back. The delay will test the dedication of Jesus' servants."

(Pawson, 2007, p. 579)

Author: Paul, along with Silas and Timothy
Date: Early 50's AD – Second earliest letter of Paul's
Big Point: Christians should work until Jesus Returns. Of course, balance is the key, perhaps better stated is purposeful living. We need to be about the work of the Lord.

Message: After writing 1 Thessalonians, Paul dictates a follow-up. A letter falsely claiming to be from Paul had left the Thessalonians upset (2:2) at the thought that Jesus had already returned. Paul assures them the event is still in the future and urges people to live productive lives.

Memorable Verses:

"For Even when we were with you, we gave you this rule, 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.'" 2 Thess. 3:10

"And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right." 2 Thess. 3:13

Unique: Paul dictated this letter, but signs it with his own hand as verification, as we read in 2 Thess. 3:17.

Outline of Book:

- 1. Paul's Encouragement in Persecution (1)**
 - a. Thanksgiving for Their Growth (1:1-4)
 - b. Encouragement in Their Persecution (1:5-10)
 - c. Prayer for God's Blessing (1:11-12)
- 2. Paul's Explanation of the Day of the Lord (2)**
 - a. The Events Preceding the Day of the Lord (2:1-12)
 - b. Comfort of the Believer on the Day of the Lord (2:13-17)
- 3. Paul's Exhortation to the Church (3)**
 - a. Wait Patiently For Christ (3:1-5)
 - b. Withdraw from the Idle (3:6-15)
 - c. Concluding Remarks (3:16-18)

*Adapted, by permission, from Dr. Bryan R. Jones (2016)

Application:

1. Pray for partners in the Gospel and ask them to pray for you. (1:3; 3:1-5)
2. Live with expectation for Christ's imminent, rather than immediate return.
3. Stir up God's eternal encouragement and good hope through the Gospel and apply that to good work and testimony. (2:16-17)
4. Do not be so easily deceived by fraudulent teachers and teaching.