

Monday
II Thessalonians

Sometimes information gets communicated incorrectly; sometimes wrong information gets added into the mix. For the Thessalonians wrong information was communicated to them. Paul wanted to set the record straight, but before he did, he wanted to be sure to commend them for their evident spiritual growth.

1. Read II Thessalonians 1 – What three men are writing this letter together?
2. What does this teach you about the need for cooperation in ministry?
3. According to verse 2, what two things did they pray for the Thessalonian Christians?
4. Who is the source of those two things?
5. According to verse 3, what were they bound to do concerning the Thessalonians?
6. Paul said that it was “meet” or appropriate to give thanks for them. Why do you think it is appropriate to thank God for the spiritual growth of fellow Believers?
7. What grew exceedingly in their lives?
8. What is the benefit of that?
9. What abounded in the church among its members?
10. What is the benefit of that?

The Thessalonians were growing in their relationship with God and their faith in Him. It’s just as important for us to keep growing everyday. How is your faith and love? Has it grown recently?

Tuesday
II Thessalonians

The faith and love of the Thessalonians were growing even in a less-than-ideal environment with less-than-ideal circumstances. In the next several verses, Paul commended the Thessalonians for their continued growth in spite of tough circumstances

1. Read II Thessalonians 1 – According to verse 4, what did Paul and his team do in other churches they visited concerning the Thessalonians?
2. What were the people enduring?
3. What did the people display during their hard times?
4. How could you display the same in a similar situation?
5. According to verse 5, suffering persecution is a manifest token, and unmistakable evidence, of God’s righteous judgment. God is right in allowing us to suffer for His kingdom’s sake. Why?
6. According to verse 6, what will God do to the people who persecute you?
7. According to verse 7, what will God give to those who are troubled with persecution?
8. When will the rest happen?
9. According to verse 8, on whom will God take vengeance?
10. Read I John 3:23 – What is the commandment of the Gospel that must be obeyed?

God is not unrighteous to allow us to suffer in this life. It only makes Heaven that much more enjoyable. Take time today to thank God for the hard times in your life.

Wednesday II Thessalonians

Paul continued his encouragement to the Thessalonians. He wanted them to know for sure that the persecution they were facing was going to be worth it when they got to Heaven. See what else Paul had to say to the Thessalonians.

1. Read II Thessalonians 1 – According to verse 9, someone will be punished. With what will these people be punished?
2. Go back to verse 8 to get the context. Who are the people who will be punished?
3. The everlasting destruction will involve separation from two things. According to verse 9, what are they?
4. How is separation from those two things considered destruction?
5. According to verse 10, what will the saints of God do when Christ returns?
6. On top of that, what will everyone who believes in Jesus do to Jesus?
7. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will have the wonderful privilege of seeing Him face to face. They will admire Him. What encouragement does that give you to remain faithful to God even in hard circumstances?
8. Paul said in verse 10 that his team's testimony was what God used to cause many people to believe the Gospel. How could God use your testimony to bring others to Christ?

Be sure your testimony could point someone to Christ!

Thursday II Thessalonians

Prayer is a powerful tool in all times of life, especially in hard times. Paul concluded this chapter and his thoughts on the persecution that the Thessalonians were facing with a prayer for them. It's more than a formal writing of a prayer to recite; it's his heart's true desire for them.

1. Read II Thessalonians 1 – According to verse 11, how often did Paul pray for the Thessalonians?
2. Paul wanted God to be able to count the Thessalonians or "this calling." To what calling was he referring?
3. What would they need to do to be counted worthy of that calling?
4. What was the other half of Paul's prayer for the people?
5. What accompanies the work of faith?
6. Verse 12 gives the goal of Paul's prayer. He wanted Jesus' name to be glorified in whom?
7. What's even more interesting than Paul's desire for Jesus to be glorified in the lives of the Thessalonians is Paul's desire for the Thessalonians to be glorified in Christ. According to verse 12, how does that glorification take place?
8. Does anyone deserve to be glorified?
9. How could remaining faithful to God's calling for your life bring glory to Him?

God displays His power through our faith as we trust Him to sustain us even in hard times. Let God show His power in you!

Friday
II Thessalonians

Now that Paul has finished commending the Thessalonians for their steadfastness in persecution, he turns his attention to the meat of the letter: setting the record straight. Some wrong teaching about future events made its way into their church, and Paul wanted them to be firmly established on right teachings.

1. Read II Thessalonians 2 – According to verse 1, Paul made a request concerning what two events?
2. Verse 2 gives the request that Paul made. He didn't want them to be two things. What were they?
3. He didn't want them to be trouble by any one of what three things?
4. There had been reports that the Lord had already come and gone. This was certainly troubling to them. Let's pause for a minute and define a couple terms. The "Day of Christ" is different than the "Rapture." The Rapture happens at the end of the Church Age and before the Tribulation. The Day of Christ or the Day of the Lord comes at the end of the Tribulation. It is the time of His Second Coming and His victory at the Battle of Armageddon. Why would it have been fearful for the Thessalonians to be still on the earth if they thought the Day of the Lord had already come?
5. Paul reassured them that the Day of the Lord had not already come. They were still waiting for it to happen. Why do you think that this was so important to Paul that he wrote another to them?

Sound doctrine is necessary for peace of mind. Wrong beliefs will certainly lead to fear. Know your Bible!

Saturday
II Thessalonians

Paul reassured the Thessalonian people that the Day of Christ had not already come. They were still waiting for it. Paul wanted to set the record straight and give some events that would have to happen before the Day of Christ.

1. Read II Thessalonians 2 – Remember that the Day of the Lord comes at the end of the Tribulation. All the events that Paul described in these next several verses happen after the Rapture and during the Tribulation. Paul said in verse 3 that he didn't want them to be deceived by any means. What is the first event Paul mentioned in verse 3?
2. The next event mentioned in verse 3 is the revelation of the son of perdition. Of whom is Paul speaking?
3. The antichrist will be revealed 3½ years into the Tribulation (Revelation 13). How did Paul describe the antichrist and his actions in verse 4?
4. Paul interrupted himself in verse 5 to remind the people that he told them these things personally already. What does this verse teach you about the importance of paying attention in church?
5. Paul told the people in verse 6 that there was something or someone Who was withholding or restraining Satan and the antichrist from being revealed before their time. Who is that restraining influence?
6. That restraining influence is the Holy Spirit. Verse 7 teaches that the power of sin is present already, but the Holy Spirit restrains the extent of its influence. What will eventually happen to the Holy Spirit?

Nothing happens in your life without God's permission.

Sunday
II Thessalonians

Paul listed several events that need to take place before the Day of the Lord. There are still a few more that he needs to mention in order to set the record straight and put the Thessalonians' minds at ease about future events.

1. Read II Thessalonians 2 – Verse 3 says that the son of perdition will be revealed. Verse 7 says that the Holy Spirit will cease to be the restraining influence in the world. According to verse 8, who will be revealed?
2. This seems to indicate that the revelation of the antichrist and the removal of the Holy Spirit will take place very close in time to each other. What will eventually happen to him?
3. According to verse 9, who is the source of the antichrist's power?
4. According to verses 9-10, what four things does he use to get his message across?
5. He will target a certain group of people with these four things. What group is that?
6. According to verse 11, because some people haven't believed the Gospel up to that point in time, what will He send them?
7. What will those people consequently believe?
8. According to verse 12, these people will be damned or condemned. For what purpose will they face eternal punishment?

It is of great importance to know the truth and to be sound in your faith of the Bible. There are people who would like to deceive you. Know your Bible so you aren't deceived from the truth!

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II Thessalonians

Sometimes information gets communicated incorrectly; sometimes wrong information gets added into the mix. For the Thessalonians wrong information was communicated to them. Paul wanted to set the record straight.

1. Read II Thessalonians 2 – According to verse 13, what was Paul and his team bound to do concerning the Thessalonians?
2. What is the significance of calling them "brethren?"
3. What was the reason for giving thanks?
4. According to verse 13, through what two things did their salvation come?
5. According to verse 14, what did God use to call them?
6. God used the Gospel, the message of good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to call them to salvation. With whom can you share the Gospel today?
7. According to verse 14, what does a person obtain at the time of salvation?
8. What does verse 14 have in common with Romans 8:18?
9. What hope does that glory give you as you face this day?

Remember that Paul was setting the record straight about future events. The Day of the Lord hadn't come yet. There was still future glory to be revealed. Knowing that is coming gives us strength to continue on serving God.

Tuesday
II Thessalonians

Paul finished setting the record straight: the Day of the Lord has not come yet. Next he moved on to complete this chapter and the rest of the book with instructions for us in light of the fact that Christ is coming.

1. Read II Thessalonians 2 – Paul gave two commands in verse 15. What is the first one?
2. To stand fast means to stand firmly on what you believe and not be persuaded otherwise. Why is it so important to be firm in your doctrinal beliefs?
3. What is the second command in verse 15?
4. Read Mark 7:7-8 – In this passage Jesus condemned holding traditions, but Paul told the Thessalonians to hold traditions. At first glance it could look like there is a double standard. What do you think is the difference between the two that one is acceptable and the other is not?
5. Go back to II Thessalonians 2. According to verse 16, what two things have Jesus Christ and God the Father given us?
6. Through what did we receive them?
7. Verse 16 uses the word “himself” in reference to Jesus Christ. Why is it so special to have Jesus Christ “Himself” do something for us?
8. According to verse 17, what two things did Paul want God to do for the Thessalonians?

Our future hope should change our current behavior!

Wednesday
II Thessalonians

Now that Paul has finished his doctrinal correction, he can turn his attention to other important matters concerning their church, Paul’s ministry, and the Kingdom of God.

1. Read II Thessalonians 3 – What did Paul ask the people to do for him and his team?
2. What two specific requests did Paul mention?
3. What does it mean that the Word of the Lord would have “free course?”
4. Paul said that the Word of God had free course and was glorified in the Thessalonians. How would someone be able to tell if it had free course and was glorified in your?
5. Verse 2 gives a third request for Paul’s prayer. What is it?
6. Those unreasonable and wicked people are that way for a reason. What is it?
7. How did Paul describe God in verse 3?
8. What two things will God do for the Thessalonians?
9. Why is the fact that God is faithful so important to being established in your faith and preserved from the influence of evil men?

Our lives should be walking and talking evidence that God’s Word is effective to change lives. Is yours?

Thursday
II Thessalonians

The evidence of the working of God and His Word in your life should be very clearly seen. Paul continued to teach of the importance of right, Biblical living and the need to stay away from those who don't.

1. Read II Thessalonians 3 – According to verse 4, what did Paul have confidence that the Thessalonians would do?
2. According to verse 5, into what two things did Paul wish that their hearts would be directed?
3. Why is it so important to let God direct your heart, and not yourself?
4. Paul just finished telling the Thessalonians that he was sure that they would be obedient. What command did he give them in verse 6?
5. What do you think was the purpose of that command?
6. According to verse 7, what were the people supposed to do?
7. Why did Paul say that he was worthy to be followed?
8. What does this teach you about the importance of your behavior, specifically in a position of leadership?
9. According to verse 8, what were some of the things he and his team did in order to set a good example?

Be very careful of the influence of those around you. It's strong!

Friday
II Thessalonians

Paul made a good case to allow him to be followed. Personal behavior is extremely important, especially in positions of spiritual leadership! Paul continued to tell of other important actions and behaviors.

1. Read II Thessalonians 3 – According to verse 9, what purpose did Paul give that he and his team behaved in the way they did in front of the Thessalonians?
2. What was he hoping the people would do when they saw his example?
3. According to verse 10, what other command did Paul give them while they were there in person?
4. What is the benefit of that command?
5. Why would it have been hypocritical for Paul to give that command if he didn't do what he said in verses 7-8?
6. According to verse 11, what did Paul hear about some of the people in their church?
7. What is a busybody?
8. How could that kind of behavior hurt the church?
9. How can you prevent yourself from being caught up in that kind of sinful laziness?

Right belief should produce right behavior. Does your belief in the Bible reflect itself in your behavior?

Saturday
II Thessalonians

To this point in the book, Paul has taken some hard, cut-and-dry stands on some specific issues, almost to the point of being unmerciful. He didn't conclude his letter that way; he did it in a very loving and caring way.

1. Read II Thessalonians 3 – We pick up in the middle of Paul's instructions about people who don't work. What command did Paul give to the people who weren't working in verse 12?
2. Lazy people should work and not mooch off everyone else. Paul didn't want the people to misunderstand: not everyone in the church was lazy and refusing to work. Some were working very hard. What encouragement did Paul give those people in verse 13?
3. Why do you think that was such a timely encouragement?
4. According to verse 14, what were the people supposed to do with the disobedient Believers?
5. What was the purpose of doing that?
6. Sin is always shameful. Paul didn't want sin to be glorified in any way. He didn't want to be misunderstood either. According to verse 15, how were the people supposed to view the disobedient Believers?
7. What were they supposed to do instead?
8. What do you think was the ultimate for causing the disobedient Believers to be ashamed?

Sin is shameful, and the purity of the Church is vital. Sin cannot be tolerated, but God's people must always discipline in love!

Sunday
II Thessalonians

Paul has concluded his task of setting the record straight. He was careful to teach correct doctrine and strengthen the faith of the Believers in that church. He concluded his letter with a very personal greeting.

1. Read II Thessalonians 3 – How did Paul refer to the Lord in verse 16?
2. Paul used the word "himself" again in verse 16 in reference to the Lord. Why is it so special to the Lord "Himself" do something for us?
3. What did Paul want God to give to the people?
4. How often did he want them to have peace?
5. By what means did he want them to have peace?
6. Whom did Paul want to be with them?
7. There is no doubt that Paul wanted them to have peace. What does Philippians 4:6-9 teach about having peace and God's presence?
8. What did Paul do personally in verse 17?
9. Most people think Paul had problems with his eyes which is why he usually dictated his letters and had someone else write them down. Why is it so special that he wrote the last few verses by himself?
10. According to verse 18, what did Paul want to be with the people?

We need God's peace and grace everyday!