

Bible Thoughts

with
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2 Thessalonians

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analyzed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

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Introduction

2 Thessalonians

WRITER. Apostle Paul

Paul wrote two letters to the church at Thessalonian. The church was a direct result of Paul's second missionary journey, [Acts 17:1-9](#). The Apostle had been opposed by the Jews, [Acts 17:10-15](#) but the second European church was started. Soon after departure from Thessalonica Paul had written the first letter. The second letter appears to have been written soon after the first letter, it may have been as a result of the return and report of the person who had taken the first letter to the church.

Reason. The Thessalonian believers were very concerned about the "Day of the Lord" and coming deliverance from their persecution.

Paul explains the reason for this persecution, preparing a believer for future glory in heaven, but also seals the enemies of God. Paul tells them that the "Day of the Lord" had still not come, other events were to happen before.

The letter is broken up as follows:

Introduction, Authors, who the letter is for. Blessings. 1:1-2

Encouragement for the persecution. 1:3-12

Instruction concerning the "Day of the Lord." 2:1-12

Encouragement and Thanksgiving. 2:13-17

Prayer and confidence in God. 3:1-5

Instructions to work, warnings. 3:6-15

Conclusions. 3:16-18

Chapter 1

v1-3 Introduction.

v1,2 Greetings from the writer, Paul and co-workers to the believers at the Thessalonian Church. Paul reminds them that we are all in God the Father and Jesus.

v4-12 Comfort in persecution.

Paul is full of thanks to God for the growth of the Thessalonian Believers, because of their spiritual growth and love for each other. Paul was concerned about their faith in his first letter, [1 Thess 3:5,10](#), here Paul feels that "your faith groweth exceedingly." Paul was also worried about their love, [1 Thess 3:12](#), he has observed that their love has also "aboundeth," a large amount.

v4 Paul wants to "glory in you," to boast about their faith to the other Christian churches.

Paul used the present "you endure" indicating that they were still being strongly persecuted.

v5-10 The reason for Persecution.

Persecution can be because of a Believers failure or growth. God will use persecution to punish for failure or to help the Believer grow in faith, to prepare them for their future in the Kingdom. God loves every true believer and His aim is always for a closer relationship with Him.

v5 Any persecution for a Believer is a sign of God's righteous care, love and judgement for His children, to "be counted worthy." Consider [2 Cor 4:16ff](#).

v6 God will also use tribulation for those who cause a true Believer problems. [John 5:26-29](#).

v7-9 The disciples were used to experiencing problems and tribulations, they already knew that God could provide all the care and protection for a Believer they need. Join us in our faith is suggested by Paul, then wait for the return of Jesus, when He returns He will use His powers to deal with those who have rejected God. See [John 5:22-27](#)

v9 The punishment promised will be total ruin, losing everything. This includes total separation from the presence of God. The New Testament has numerous descriptions of this place of punishment.

Cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth, [Matt 13:42](#).

The devil who had deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever, [Rev 20:10](#).

The unprofitable servant into outer darkness there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, [Matt 25:30](#).

But, nothing will be as bad as the total separation from the love and presence of God, His glory, His power.

v10 The Day of the Lord has not specific date, just "when", it will happen, but the time is indefinite, not clear when, therefore, it could be today or one hundred years ahead. Jesus Christ will be glorified by His saints, the true believers, [John 17:9-17](#); [2 Cor 3:18](#).

When the true believers see their Lord they will be full of celebration and exalt their wonderful Lord:-

Who turned away the wrath of God, [1 John 2:2](#); [Rom 3:25,26](#).

Was the Redeemer, paid the price, [1 Tim 2:5,6](#); [Col 2:13,14](#).

Who took our place in punishment, [Heb 2:9](#).

Restored our relationship with God, reconciliation, [2 Cor 5:19](#).

Why will this happen? "Because you believed our witness of the truth."

v11 Because of this Paul and the ministry team were praying daily for them, that God would bless them for their faith and growth. Compare [Rom 15:13,14](#); [Gal 5:22,23](#); [Eph 5:9,10](#) v12 Paul prays that the Name of Jesus will be glorified by the Thessalonians witness, note that it is the presence of Jesus "in you and you in Him." All this due to the wonderful grace, mercy, love of God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2

v1,2 Paul now turns to the reason for the letter, the Thessalonians church, probably deceived by false teachers, v2, had misunderstood the word's of Paul in [1 Thess 4:15](#), they were concerned that the Day of the Lord had already come. Paul said that the Day of the Lord had not happened yet because a number of events must come first.

"Not soon shaken in mind," do not forget true doctrines which they had been taught.

Do not listen to any who are saying that they have a new revelation, "neither by spirit," or anyone who says they have heard the apostle give other teaching about the *Day of the Lord*.

v3,4 Paul tells the church not to be deceived, see [Matt 24:4](#). Paul reminds them, as he told them during his visit, v5, that there are to be definite signs before the return of the Lord Jesus.

First of all there will be a turning away from the things of God, rebellion, "a falling away," - the *apostasy*, then the "man of sin will be revealed." This person will not necessarily be known to the world, but he will be setting himself up in opposition to God and will be planning to be worshipped by the world instead of God.

Note: v7 Opposition to God already exists, but is being controlled by the Holy Spirit, who will be removed with the Church at the rapture, [1 Thess 4:13-17](#).

Consider [1 Tim 4:1-3](#); [2 Tim 3:1-9](#); [2 Tim:3ff](#).

John refers to this "man of sin" as the "Antichrist," [1 John 2:18,22](#); [1 John 4:3](#); [2 John v7](#).

v4 This person, the "man of sin," the "Antichrist," will be controlled by Satan and will set himself up to be worshiped in the Jerusalem temple of God, making himself out to be God. Compare note [Mark 13:14](#).

v8 Following the signs the "Wicked One" will be *revealed*, it does not mean it does not already exist, just not known. However, as soon as this person is known, God moves against him, *consume* is better translated as *kill* or *slay*. The spirit or breath from His mouth will do the destruction, see [Rev 19:11-21](#) for a description of the event.

v9,10 The Antichrist is the result of the work of Satan, [Rev 13:1-8](#). The appearance

comes with great power, *miracles, signs, and wonders* which caused the world to wonder. But, this was all false, it was all coming from wrong, evil, unrighteousness. This whole action was against God and the message of salvation, and the world prefers to accept these than the truth and love of God. The Greek used does suggest that the effect is already happening, which we know that most of the world will not accept the Truth, the Gospel.

v11 This shows that God is still fully in control, controlling the future of those who rejected Him. We must remember that God knows all things, which also applies to the mind of everyone on earth, He knows who will reject the offer of salvation. Consider [Matt 13:10ff](#); [Rom 1:20-33](#).

Satan's aim is to make the world believe him and not God, [John 8:44](#), often putting doubt in what God said, [Gen 3:1ff](#), "did God really say that?"

v12 As a result the people prefer and accept the words of Satan and not the Word of God, by this action they willingly join with Satan against God and will share the final punishment of Satan. [John 16:11](#); [Rev 20:1-20](#); [Rom 2:1-6](#).

v13-17 In total contrast to the behaviour of the Antichrist Paul now gives praise for the Thessalonian believers because they have chosen the Truth of salvation. In these few verses Paul covers the whole work of salvation.

[Sanctification](#) by the Holy Spirit, setting the believer apart for God, by the sacrifice action of Jesus, finally preparing the Believer for the future, their Christ like lives and the coming glory. [1 Thess 3:13](#); [1 Thess 5:23](#); [Rom 8:18ff](#).

"From the beginning," seems to indicate that Paul has a view on election before creation, [Eph 1:4](#). Again we have to consider that God knows all things, including our decisions, past and future. [1 Peter 2:9](#); [1 Thess 1:4](#).

v15 "Traditions," at the time there was very little written information, *tradition*, or teaching, [1 Cor 11:2](#), most information was spread by the Apostles teaching, though now the letters were being created which now makes up the New Testament.

v16 Note the honour and praised given to Jesus by the position given to Him, united and equal in action with God the Father. Compare [2 Cor 13:14](#). The whole of the salvation act is by Grace by God.

v17 In whatever you do, do it for the Lord.

Chapter 3

v1,2 Paul repeats the prayer from [1 Thess 5:25](#), adding the desire for "free course" or a *free run* of the spread of the gospel, no opposition or danger from evil people without faith. See [Acts 18:6,12](#) That the "Word of the Lord" be received, obeyed and give glory to Jesus, just as the Thessalonians had received it, [1 Thess 1:6](#).

v3-5 God is faithful. God is far more faithful than any man or woman, [1 Thess 5:24](#). "Keep you from evil," from the power and action of Satan, compare [Matt 6:13](#).

v4 We can trust God not to fail us in the present, *you both do*, and the future *will do*,. "Which we command you," see verse 6ff.

v5 Paul makes a short prayer for them, that God will direct their hearts and thoughts into the love of God, [Rom 8:37-39](#) and be prepared to wait patiently for the return of Jesus. [Heb 12:1,2](#).

v6-15 Command to work.

The Thessalonian church had, because they thought the return of Jesus was very near, had decided that it was not worth working, they had become lazy. Paul now commands how they should be behaving as they await the return.

Paul issues the instruction, in the Name of Jesus, his source of authority, that they should not have anything to do with a brother or sister who insists on not working. The church members should follow the example of Paul and the team, who had not misused the fellowship. See [1 Thess 4:11,12](#); [1 Thess 5:11-16](#).

v7-9 Copy or imitate our behaviour.

Paul reminds them that they worked for their own food, they did not use the church's kind fellowship of money and food as an example to the church on how a Believer should behave.

v10,11 During the previous visit Paul had urged them not to have anything to do with those who refused to work, giving them no support.

v11 Paul had received this unhappy news that some would not work for their living, instead they were being *busybodies*, a person who interferes or is always trying to find out what other people were doing, possibly spreading tales or stories about others, making trouble for these people.

v12 Paul sends a message to the troublemakers, a command, with the authority of the Lord Jesus, that they stop their wrong behaviour and work and supply their own requirements, "eat their own bread."

v13-15 The whole church must not fail in their work for the Lord, Paul tells the church to ignore and avoid these troublemakers if they fail to obey the command he has sent in this letter. However, they are not your enemies, treat them as your brother in Christ.

v16 Final blessings, that they receive the divine peace of God through Jesus, not just once but always.

v17 Paul closes his letters with his own handwriting, a sign of the letters authority. [1 Cor 16:21](#); [Gal 6:11](#); [Col 4:18](#).

v18 The blessing includes all the church, including the troublemakers.