



**Background:** The time between Paul's first and second letters to the church in Thessalonica spanned only a few months. We know both letters were written while Paul was in Corinth because it's the only city where both Silas and Timothy ministered with the apostle. Because Acts 18 indicated that Paul spent approximately 18 months in Corinth, you can place the date of 2 Thessalonians being no later than 51 AD. The persecution that had begun while the church was in its infancy (Acts 17) had not only continued following Paul's departure, but had apparently intensified.

**Main Point:** In Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul discusses the immanent rapture of the church and the implications this should have on the believers. Apparently, in addition to the increase in persecution the Thessalonians were facing, a misconception had begun to circulate concerning Paul's exhortation. The church had falsely concluded their present trial was the Great Tribulation and that Jesus had already returned for the church. Somehow they had missed out on the rapture.

Upon hearing this Paul immediately wrote a second letter to the church in Thessalonica not only to encourage the suffering saints facing immense persecution, but to correct these misconceptions. Paul reassures them they had not missed the rapture and further expounds upon the Day of the Lord and what would need to occur before Jesus' second coming. Though Paul reinforces the immanency of the rapture, he makes it clear in this letter that before the Day of the Lord would occur the Holy Spirit would be removed, the man of sin would be revealed, and a great apostasy would arise.

Paul closes his letter by challenging the believers to be established in their knowledge of God's Word, to be faithful in their walks with God, and to be consistent in their Godly service. The coming of Jesus should not produce idleness, but faithfulness to fulfill the calling of Jesus Christ.

**OUTLINE OF 2 THESSALONIANS:**

**1. PAUL ENCOURAGES THE SUFFERING SAINTS IN THE MIDST OF INTENSE PERSECUTION AND TRIBULATION.**

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4   | PAUL WAS PROUD OF THEM         |
| 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10  | GOD WILL TAKE VENGEANCE        |
| 2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12 | PAUL PRAYS FOR THEIR ENDURANCE |

**2. PAUL CORRECTS THE MISGUIDED SAINTS CONCERNING THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE GREAT TRIBULATION.**

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12 | WHAT COMES BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD |
|                        | - THE RESTRAINER WILL BE REMOVED      |
|                        | - THE MAN OF SIN WILL BE REVEALED     |
|                        | - GREAT APOSTASY                      |

**3. PAUL CHALLENGES THE SAINTS TO BE FAITHFUL AND DILIGENT IN LIGHT OF THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.**

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17 | BE ESTABLISHED IN GOD'S WORD         |
| 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-7   | BE FAITHFUL IN THEIR WALKS WITH GOD  |
| 2 THESSALONIANS 3:8-18  | BE CONSISTENT IN THEIR GODLY SERVICE |



### *Day 1: Endurance Speaks Loudly.....*

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-4 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What does it mean to endure tribulations and persecutions? Why is this important and mentioned by Paul? (2). What seems to be the by-product of their endurance in the face of opposition? (3). Beyond their love for one another and increased faith, what else is produced by our endurance?

### *Day 2: Vengeance of God.....*

**2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Is it right or wrong for God to judge the sinful wickedness of mankind? (2). What does Paul mean when he says, "it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you"? (3). What does God's willingness to take vengeance on the wicked reveal about the character of God?

### *Day 3: Man of Sin.....*

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Who is the "man of sin" mentioned by Paul in this passage? (2). What "Day" is Paul referring to at the core of his discourse? (3). According to this passage, before the "Day of the Lord" begins what two things must occur first?

### *Day 4: The Restrainer.....*

**2 Thessalonians 2:6-12 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In the context of this passage who's revealing is being restrained? (2). Whose involvement in the affairs of planet earth seems to be restraining the man of sins revealing? (3). What does this tell us concerning the rapture of the church and when it will take place?

### *Day 5: Run Swiftly.....*

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why would the Apostle Paul discuss the rapture of the church, Day of the Lord, retraining of the Antichrist, and judgment of God to a group of persecuted believers? (2). What does Paul encourage the believers to stand fast in? (3). What does Paul mean when he asks the believers to "pray for us that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified"?

### *Day 6: Beware of Idleness.....*

**2 Thessalonians 3:6-18 // THINKING POINT:** (1). What does it mean to be idle? Why would Paul caution against this? (2). What would spiritual idleness be the opposite of. Why is this such a detriment to our walks with God? (3). Take a look at your spiritual life. Are you pushing farther into your relationship with Jesus or do you find yourself stagnant? What needs to change to put aside your idleness?

**DEVOTIONS**

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