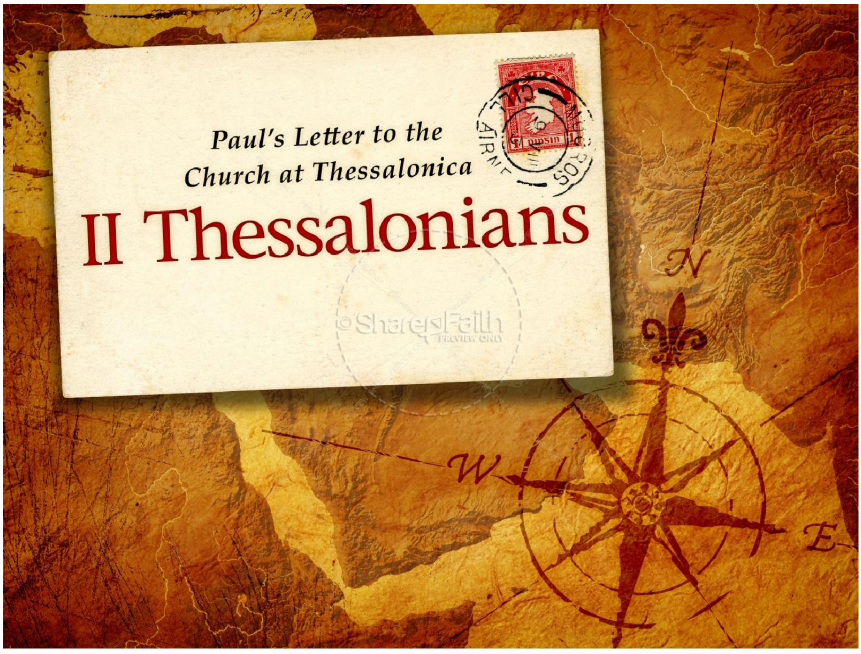
A Guided Inductive Study of 2 Thessalonians



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of 1 Thessalonians

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

Outline of 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 1 - God's Judgment

2 Thessalonians 2 - The Coming of the Lord

2 Thessalonians 3 – Protected & Preserved

2 Thessalonians 1 - God's Judgment on the Wicked

Key verses to think about.

1:6 God is Just
God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you…

1:7 Jesus Will Come With His Angels
This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

1:8 Eternal Punishment
He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

1:9 Everlasting Destruction
They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified.

1:11 Pray Constantly
With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

Main Truth:

The judgement of God is according to truth. Romans 2:2 *"Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth."*

Questions:

1 Is God cruel in punishing sinners?

2 Do you believe in an eternal hell? See verse 9

3 How can you make yourself worth of His calling?

2 Thessalonians 2 - The Coming of the Lord

Key verses to think about.

1-2 The Coming of the Lord
Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3-4 The Man of Sin
Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

6-7 The Restrainer
And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.

8-10 The Lawless One
And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11-12 Strong Delusion
And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

15 Stand Fast
Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

16-17 Benediction
Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Main Truth:

Don't be deceived, Jesus is coming again.

Questions:

1 Do you believe the coming of Christ is near? Why do you believe that?

2 Why would God send men strong delusions to believe a lie?

3 What is our *"everlasting consolation"?* Do you have it?

2 Thessalonians 3 – Protected & Preserved

Key verses to think about.

3:3 God is faithful
But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

3:5 Perseverance in love
May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

3:10 No Work, No Food
For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

3:11 Busybodies
For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

3:13 Do Good
But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

3:14-15 The Disorderly
Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

3:16 Peace Always
Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

Main Truth:

God will protect you and give you peace.

Questions:

1 Why do we need to be protected from the evil one? What might the evil one do to us?

2 What does Paul mean by perseverance? Why does that look like in your daily life?

3 What is a busybody? Do you know any? What can you do about it?