



# *2 Thessalonians*

**A 10-WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

**SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES**

*By Lisa Hughes*

## **2 Thessalonians**

### **Lesson #1, Book Overview**

Read through the book two times before beginning this study.

Using only the text of 2 Thessalonians, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to cite Scripture references to support your answers. At this point you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible. You will have an opportunity later in this lesson to complete your answers using other Bible study resources.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is it written?
3. When was it written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What was the author's purpose in writing the book?
6. What general subjects are covered in the book?
7. What are the key words in the book?

8. What is the atmosphere or general tone of the book?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. At this point, what things have intrigued, interested, or engaged you from the book of 2 Thessalonians?

Now you may consult your Study Bible notes, Bible dictionaries/encyclopedias, or commentaries. Feel free to go back and add any extra information you have learned to complete any of your answers to the preceding questions.



4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers. Your answer might look like this: God gives grace and peace in verse 2.
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.
  
8. What do you learn about God's righteous judgment in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## 2 Thessalonians

### Lesson #3, Chapter 1 :1-5

1. In verses 1 and 2 Paul greets the Thessalonian church. How does the beginning of this letter compare to 1 Thess. 1:1?
  
2. What does Paul want the Thessalonians to have and who is it from (verse 2)?
  
3. Define *grace* [Strong's #5485] and *peace* [Strong's #1515].
  
4. Choose a minimum of 3 verses from each category below to answer this question: *What is the significance of Paul saying, "Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"?*
  - a. For verses on grace you can look up 3 or more of these verses: Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; 5:15; Eph. 2:8; Col. 1:6; Titus 3:7.
  
  - b. For verses on peace you can look up 3 or more of these verses: Rom. 5:1; 15:33; Eph. 2:14; Phil. 4:7; Col. 1:20; 2 Thess. 3:16.
  
5. See 1 Thess. 3:10 and 12 where Paul prays and writes of the Thessalonians' need for continued growth in the areas of faith and love. How is Paul's prayer and exhortation answered in 2 Thess. 1:3?

6. Paul says, *We ought always to give thanks*. The word *ought* means to be under obligation, to owe, to be bound up to one's duty. What 2 reasons compel Paul to thank God for the Thessalonians (verse 3)?
  
7. When Paul stated "your faith is greatly enlarged" he used a Greek word that means intensive growth or increase. It means to grow exceedingly. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about Christians and a growing faith: Job 17:9; Ps. 84:7; 92:13; Prov. 4:18; Is. 49:29-31; Jn. 15:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-10; 3:18.
  
8. What does the growing love among the members of this church reveal? See Jn. 15:12; Gal. 5:22; 1 Pet. 1:22; and 1 Jn. 3:10, 14; 5:2.
  
9. A Christian is to be ever-growing, always increasing in their faith and love. What things seem to hinder your faith toward God and your love for the saints? What is the solution when we're weak or lacking in certain areas of our walk? See 1 Thess. 3:12; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5.
  
10. When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure from this earth, He told them in John 13:33-35, "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.'" Think on these verses and explain how they can be true.
  
11. Name 3 (or more) specific ways in which you can show love to the brethren of your church.

12. Verse 4 begins with *therefore*. What is the connection between verse 3 and verse 4?
  
13. Just as there is a godly kind of jealousy, so there is a godly kind of pride or boasting. What elements make the pride Paul mentions here in verse 4 acceptable? See Rom. 15:17-18; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 10:13; Gal. 6:14.
  
14. According to verse 4, why does Paul speak proudly of the Thessalonians?
  
15. Define *perseverance* [Strong's #5281 (ESV *steadfastness*; NKJV *patience*)] and *faith* [Strong's #4102].
  
16. Where (or when) do the Thessalonians exercise their perseverance and faith (verse 4)?
  
17. Define *persecutions* [Strong's #1375], *afflictions* [Strong's #2347 (NKJV *tribulations*; NIV *trials*)], and *endure* [Strong's #430].
  
18. How would knowing that God judges righteously and hearing the commendation of their endurance in trial bring encouragement to the suffering Thessalonians?



19. How does suffering and enduring make a believer worthy of the Kingdom of God? See Acts 14:22; Rom. 8:17-18 (19-39); 2 Tim. 2:12; Heb. 10:32-39; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; 4:12-19.
  
20. Read Rev. 21:1-7 to see what God has in store for those who endure until the end. What do you learn?
  
21. What truths from this lesson have impacted you? What are some ways you want to begin implementing some of the truths you have studied in these verses?

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ~ James 1:2-4

But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ~ 1 Peter 5:9

“When God would judge the Thessalonians they would be declared worthy of God’s kingdom. Endurance in trials does not make one worthy of heaven; one does not earn heaven by suffering. But endurance in trials does demonstrate one’s worthiness. A Christian is made worthy by God’s grace, which he receives as a free gift by faith in Jesus Christ. His trials simply expose what is there already and since the character that emerges through the fire of testing is God-given, God receives all the glory.” ~ Bible Knowledge Commentary

## **2 Thessalonians**

### **Lesson #4, Chapter 1:6-12**

1. In verses 6–10, Paul continues with the theme of God’s righteous judgment. In verse 5 God’s righteous judgment is seen in allowing the persecutions and afflictions the believer’s were enduring to be a means of demonstrating their worthiness for Heaven. Only believers will endure until the end. Only believers will benefit from the trials by growing in grace and love and faith toward God. Now in verses 6-8, what 3 actions will reveal God’s justice?
2. In verse 6, why is it *just* or right of God to repay those who afflict the Thessalonians? See Deut. 32:35-36; Ps. 94:20-23; Rom. 2:5-11; Rom. 12:19; Rev. 16:5-6.
3. How would knowing that there would someday be a time of retribution for their persecutors be a comfort and encouragement to the suffering believers?
4. When will relief come to those who are afflicted (verse 7)?
5. What will Jesus do at His Second Coming (verse 8)?
6. What 2 characteristics in verse 8 describe those who afflict the believers?

7. Please take note of an interesting fact: those who will face the judgment of God are those who do not know Him and do not obey Him. What does that teach you then about those who will receive rest from the Lord? See verse 8 and Luke 6:46-49; 1 Jn. 2:3-6.
  
8. How is the punishment of unbelievers described in verse 9?
  
9. Define *eternal destruction* [Strong's #166, 3639]. Complete your definition after seeing what the Scriptures say about this topic: Is. 66:24; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:41, 46; 2 Pet. 2:17; Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8.
  
10. We see two purposes for the coming of the Lord here in verses 9 and 10. Unbelievers will face judgment, but what is the second purpose of His coming as stated in verse 10?
  
11. How will the Lord Jesus be glorified in His saints on that day? See verses 11-12; Is. 43:21; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 1 Jn. 3:2-3.
  
12. Define *marvel* [Strong's #2296 (NKJV *admired*)]. We will marvel and admire Jesus Christ on that day when we shall see Him as He really is. What things about the Lord cause you to marvel at Him now?
  
13. Oh, the eagerness and joy that is summed up in those words, *when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed*. How do you regard the coming of the Lord? Why are the saints to eagerly anticipate the revealing of Christ on that day?

14. What is it about what Paul has been speaking about in verses 6-10 that causes him to begin to pray for the Thessalonians?
  
15. What does Paul pray for the Thessalonian believers?
  
16. What is your calling as mentioned here in verse 11? See Rom. 8:30; 9:23-24; Phil. 3:14; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Thess. 2:14; Heb. 3:1; 1 Pet. 5:10.
  
17. How do Ps. 138:8 and Eph. 3:20-21 give further meaning to Paul's prayer that God would fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power?
  
18. What is the twofold purpose of our life as seen in verse 12?
  
19. How is that glorifying made possible (verse 12)?
  
20. No matter what aspect of your life you consider, the ribbon of God's grace binds it. How does God's grace move you to obedience? How does the magnitude of His unmerited favor pull you into service for Him?

## 2 Thessalonians

### Lesson #5, Chapter 2 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 2. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 2. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-12).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 13-15).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 16-17).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about the man of lawlessness in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.
  
8. What do you learn about the Day of the Lord in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## **2 Thessalonians**

### **Lesson #6, Chapter 2:1-12**

1. What is Paul's purpose in this section as stated in verses 1-2?
2. When will Christ come and believers be gathered to Him? See 1 Thess. 4:13 - 18 and Jn. 14:1-3.
3. Why would the idea that the Day of the Lord had already come disturb some of the believers? Though we can't say for sure why they were so disturbed, we can surmise the reason from Paul's previous comments to the Thessalonians. For some help in formulating your answer see 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:14; 4:13-18; 5:4, 9-11; 2 Thess. 1:4.
4. The new teaching the Thessalonians were receiving was purported to be from Paul or to have his approval. Why would that have been so upsetting to the Thessalonians?
5. When will the Day of the Lord come (verse 3)?
6. Apostasy is described as a falling away from the faith by professed believers. See 1 Tim. 4:1-3 and 2 Tim. 3:1-5 for a closer look at the characteristics of apostasy.

7. From verses 3-4 what do you learn about the specific apostasy committed by the man of lawlessness? Note that it is called *the* apostasy, rather than *an* apostasy. This indicates that though there may be *other* apostasies, there is *one specific one* that we can note.
  
8. What do you learn about the man of lawlessness (verses 3-10)?
  
9. Verse 4 describes the true heart of the lawless one. What is his goal?
  
10. What do you learn about the man of lawlessness being revealed and restrained from verses 3, 6, 7, and 8.
  
11. No matter how powerful the man of lawlessness is, he will never come on the scene of history until it is the appointed time for him to do so. What do you learn about God and the timing of events in history from the following verses: Dan. 9:27; Mark 1:15; Acts 1:7; Gal. 4:4?
  
12. How does the Antichrist (man of lawlessness) gather devotees for himself (verses 9-10)?
  
13. What description is given for those who follow this man of lawlessness (verse 10)?



14. How do men respond to the truth of God according to verses 10 and 12; Matt. 13:13-15; Jn. 3:19; and Rom. 1:18?
  
15. What is the result of their rejecting the truth of God's message after so many opportunities to believe (verses 11-12)?
  
16. What do the following Scriptures teach about God's intentions toward unbelievers? See Ezek. 18:32; Jn. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 2:4; Titus 2:11; 2 Pet. 3:9.
  
17. In verse 3 Paul urges the Thessalonians not to be deceived and in verse 5 he reminds them that he has already taught them about the timing of these end time events. The details of these events were not meant to scare the Thessalonians, but were to be a source of information about the final events of history. Paul had already encouraged the Thessalonians with the truths of the rapture (4:13-18), and now reminds them again in verse 1 that they will be with Jesus when events described here take place. How can those truths be a source of comfort for you as well? How does understanding the order of events described here in our text benefit you in your walk with the Lord?
  
18. How does the knowledge that God orders and appoints all these events for a specific time and place comfort and encourage you?

"Apostasy has always occurred. As we have seen from I Tim. 4:1-5, apostasy is something that is happening and is promised for the future. As time heads towards the tribulation "last days" or "last times" it will become more prevalent. In II Thess. 2 there is a definite article in front of the word apostasy. It is not apostasy in general but "THE apostasy." Just as there have always been antichrists so there is "THE antichrist." So the apostasy is definite and happens in the tribulation period. I think the best way to understand it is this:

The believers are raptured out before the tribulation begins, then during the first 3 ½ years things are for the most part fine on earth. There is a false church. Many liberal churches will hardly know any change in population after the rapture. Not being believers and not having the Holy Spirit, they will have a hard time trying to figure out what happened. They will be convinced that it doesn't have anything to do with Christianity, because after all, they are Christians and they didn't get raptured. But later, when the antichrist turns against the false church, people will then gladly apostasize to save their skins. Those who are not believers, who don't have the Holy Spirit, who are into Christianity for what they can get out of it, will not have the grace or the faith to stand up and be persecuted for Christ. So, there will be a great apostasy when the Antichrist does reveal himself and commit war on the saints. Those who are not really saints will show their true colors.” ~ Dr. Jack Hughes

## 2 Thessalonians

### Lesson #7, Chapter 2:13-17

1. Verse 13 begins with the contrasting word *but*. What distinction is Paul making between what he said previously in verses 1-12 and what he is now writing in verse 13?
  
2. What reason(s) does Paul state for giving thanks for the Thessalonians?
  
3. Define *beloved* [Strong's #25 (NIV *loved*)].
  
4. Paul says in 1 Thess. 1:4 and again here in 2:13 and 2:16 that the Thessalonians are beloved by God. Why did Paul want to make sure they understood that God loved them? Also in light of what he had just been teaching on in verses 1-12, why did Paul review the fact that God loved them?
  
5. When did God choose the Thessalonians (verse 13)?
  - a. What was God's purpose in choosing them (verse 13)?
  
  - b. What means did God use to bring about His plan (verse 13)?

6. Look up the following verses to discover what the Bible teaches about God choosing you: See Jn. 15:16; Rom. 9:11, 15, 16; Eph. 1:11; Titus 1:1.
  
7. How did God call the Thessalonians (verse 14)?
  
8. What was God's purpose in calling them to salvation (verse 14)?
  
9. What is the *glory* of our Lord Jesus Christ? See Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:18; 1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:4; and 5:10.
  
10. Because God has chosen believers for salvation to gain the glory of the Lord what does Paul urge us to do in verse 15?
  
11. What do you learn from the other instances in the Bible where Paul urges his readers to stand firm? See 1 Cor. 16:13; Gal. 5:1; Phil. 1:27; 4:1; and 1 Thess. 3:8.
  
12. Read through verses 13-15 again. What do you note about your position, your purpose, and how you are to achieve that purpose? How does your life reflect the truths found in those 3 verses?
  
13. How were the traditions taught according to verse 15?

14. What does Paul mean when he uses the word tradition? See Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 3:6; and Jude 3.
  
15. The word *hold* used in verse 15 means to *hold onto strongly or to grasp firmly in the mind and affections*. Why is it so essential to hold on tightly to the truths of God's Word in your mind?
  
16. Notice in Paul's prayer of benediction that Paul cites the things that God has already done for the believer. What are they (verse 16)?
  
17. What does Paul ask for each believer to experience (verse 17)?
  
18. Please note where the comfort and hope come from in verse 16.
  
19. What are the good works and good words that we are to engage in?

We are not justified by doing good works, but being justified we then do good.  
~William Jenkyn

God hath in Himself all power to defend you, all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you, all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to clothe you, all goodness to supply you, and all happiness to crown you. ~Thomas Brooks

## **2 Thessalonians**

### **Lesson #8, Chapter 3 Overview**

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-5).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 6-13).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 14-15).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 16-18).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.
  
6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.
  
7. What do you learn working in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.
  
8. What do you learn about our responsibilities to our brothers and sisters from the exhortations in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
  
9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## **2 Thessalonians**

### **Lesson #9, Chapter 3:1-15**

1. What does Paul want the church to pray for him (verse 1)?
2. What real life example does he have in mind (verse 1)? How did the Thessalonians respond to the Word of God? See 1 Thess. 1:6-10 and 2:13.
3. What else does Paul desire them to pray for? Why (verse 2)?
4. Paul shifts from prayer requests for himself to encouraging the Thessalonians. What is God faithful to do for them (verse 3)?
5. In verse 4 Paul refers to the authority the elders have over the sheep in their flock. How did the Thessalonians respond to the commands of Scripture?
6. How do you respond to the teaching and preaching of God's word? Do your pastors have confidence in the Lord concerning you that you would apply the Scriptures to your life?
7. What are some ways your pastors would know that you are applying what they teach to your life?



8. Paul often prays that believers would know the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ. Why is that?
  
9. Read through verses 6-15. What problem is Paul addressing in this passage?
  
10. What does Paul command the brethren in verse 6? Notice how quickly they have an opportunity to apply the encouragement of verse 4.
  
11. What two qualities characterize the one they are to stay away from (verse 6)?
  
12. In contrast to the unruly brother, what example did Paul set for them to follow (verses 7-9)?
  
13. What previous teaching did Paul give the Thessalonians (verse 10)?
  
14. What does he hear about the church (verse 11)?
  
15. What command does Paul have for the offenders and for the faithful in verses 12-15?

16. See 1 Thess. 4:11-12. Notice how the seed of disobedience blossomed into a tree that needed to be rooted out. What does that teach you about being faithful to deal with issues early on in your own life or in a fellow brother's life?
  
17. What does Paul mean when he says, *do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother* (verse 15)?
  
18. In the midst of this exhortation to work Paul encourages the Thessalonians not to grow weary of doing good. Look back at verses 6-15. What things were asked of them that they might get weary of doing?
  
19. What is the purpose of any kind of discipline within the body of Christ? See Matt. 18:15; 1 Cor. 5:6-13; Gal. 6:1; 1 Tim. 5:20.
  
20. This passage reveals the emphasis God places upon hard work. He is opposed to lazy, sluggardly attitudes and actions. Are there any areas in your life in which you need to overcome laziness, slothful attitudes, or dependence upon others to do work you need to do?

Prov. 6:6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise.

Prov. 12:27 A lazy man does not roast his prey,  
but the precious possession of a man is diligence.

Prov. 31:13 She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight.

## **2 Thessalonians**

### **Lesson #10, Chapter 3:16-18**

1. Paul closes his second letter to the Thessalonians in a customary manner—with a benediction. What blessing does he pray for them in verse 16?
2. What do you learn about the *Lord of Peace* from just a few of the references to Him in the Bible? See Is. 9:6-7; Jn. 14:27; 16:33; Rom. 16:20; 1 Cor. 14:33; 1 Thess. 5:23.
3. When did Paul want the believers to experience peace in their lives?
4. What principles for peaceful living can you derive from Ps. 29:11 and Phil. 4:5-9?
5. In verse 17 Paul adds that he closes the letter in his own hand. Why did he feel it was necessary for the Thessalonians to see how he wrote? See 2 Thess. 2:1-2.
6. Review Chapter 1. As you read over the chapter what truths and principles to apply stand out to you?
7. In Chapter 2 what truths have stayed with you?

8. How do you intend to apply and think on God's plan for faithful living from Chapter 3?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How have you been impacted, encouraged, and challenged through your study of Thessalonians?

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:23