

SECOND THESSALONIANS

INTRO:

I. Writer: Paul the Apostle

II. Time of Writing: About 50-52 A.d.

III. Purpose: there are two main purposes

1. To assure all believers that God uses persecution

-- He uses persecution to refine us. Persecution teaches endurance.

To be able to stand in a corrupt and dying world.

-- He uses persecution to seal believers. Persecution proves a believer genuine.

-- He uses persecution to seal the doom of persecutors

2. To correct some false ideas about Christ's return.

IV. Features

1. City of Thessalonica-- Capitol of Macedonia, founded by

Cassander, the top officer of Alexander the great. The cities population reached 200,000.

2. Church of Thessalonica--Because of the city's strategic location the gospel was spread far and beyond rather rapidly. It was the second great city evangelized. Paul used homes, instead of the synagogue. He had so much success that the Jews attacked and forced him out of the city to Berea. He was then forced from Berea to Athens and from there to Corinth, where he wrote first Thessalonians. After receiving the letter they responded with questions. These questions prompted this letter.

The church was made up of both believing Jews and Greeks. This is one of the churches that did not financially support Paul in his missionary work, even though they were a large congregation.

3. This epistle declares Christ as Lord 2Th.1: 1

4. This letter declares the Second Coming of Christ 2Th.2: 13

5. It is a letter of "great encouragement in facing persecution"
2nd 1:6

6. It is a letter of great evangelistic and missionary challenge
2Th.1: 8-12

CHAPTER ONE

I. GREETINGS

Intro: these first five verses make it clear what is necessary to make for a strong church.

Verses 1-5: Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; 4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: 5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Ministers are to be faithful to the church

No matter the circumstances, and then there are special times of care during persecution as Paul had already told them and us in 1Thess. 2:1-12 times such as - ridicule - being ostracized - mocked - threatened - cursed - Rejected. They may have even been physically attacked and martyred look at 1Thess 4:13 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”

The church was confused about the return of Christ, the day of the Lord and the Day of Judgment. Some felt the terrible time of the tribulation had already begun. They felt this because of the persecution they had been going through.

A church can only be a model if its ministers are faithful to the Lord and His word Ro. 15:1 says "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves." Gal. 6:2; Hebrews 13:3 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

The believers have a firm foundation in God and Christ verse 1. The believers know the grace and peace of God verse 2. The believers have a faith that grows exceedingly verse 3 Exceedingly- means to grow beyond measure, beyond what would be expected. Imagine a church full of believers where faith in Jesus grew explosively and this during severe persecution. Too many believers have their minds upon growing and increasing in the comfort and possessions of this world.

The believers have a love that abounds and overflows towards one another in verse 3. What does that mean it is a love

- That binds individuals together
- That binds individuals in an unbreakable union
- That shows concern and looks after the welfare of one

another

This was the kind of love that the model church of Thessalonica had. Here are some other references of what Jesus Himself said about this subject John 13:34-35; John 15:12; Romans 12:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8

The believers have a strong patience and faith in facing persecution and tribulation. Patience here means to be steadfast, to endure, and to persevere. Tribulation -refers to any kind of trial or trouble. Paul says their faith was so strong that he told others of it.

II. A GLIMPSE OF THE END 1:6--2:17

Verse 6: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

Righteous Judgment the purpose of judgment is to rectify injustice see also Acts 17:5-8; 1 Thess 1:6; 2:2, 14; 3:3-4

All evil will be dealt with; all those who mistreat others will face judgment. We live in the midst of an evil and unjust people. God must judge the world; his very nature demands that all the injustices and wrongs be punished Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30 says "For we know Him that hath said, vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord and again, the Lord shall judge His people"

Verses 7-8: And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Executor of Judgment, Jesus he is coming to both give rest to His followers, including rest from injustice and death of this world. His return shall be a spectacular appearance from heaven. The word "Revealed" used here means to be unveiled or uncovered. The day of the Lord will see the heavens rent this is the stars and sky folding back to let Christ descend to His royal throne in Jerusalem.

His return will be with the angels, for at least two reasons. To add to His majesty and triumph; Jesus says this in Matt 16:27 says "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His father with angels." Jesus in Matt 25:31 adds "When the son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the Holy angels with Him." To carry out His orders and to execute His justice and mercy; Christ adds to this from Matt. 13:39 says, "The enemy that sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels." read also Matt. 13:49-50 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

His return in judgment shall be in flaming fire. This refers to the glory and holiness of His appearance; it will be so brilliant that it will be as the flaming fire of God.

Verse 8: In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The people to be judged are separated into two classes all who do not know God, the only living and true God, shall be judged. These are those who reject natural revelation, who look at creation and fail to see God.

Men can know God outside of themselves; in creation; nature, the earth, outer space Romans 1:19-21, 2:11-15. Men can know God's love and care and provision. Instead of seeing they reject God, and rather

- Worship creation; science and man
- Worship the God of imagination: one that allows living as you please

All who obey not the gospel of Jesus will be judged

- Every person who has ever heard the gospel and rejected it
- Every person who has professed the gospel, but does not obey it
- Every person who has been baptized but does not obey
- Every person who has joined church but does not obey

Verse 9: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

The Penalty of Judgment: This will be terrible but deserved, why? Because they had opportunity to know and obey the truth and chose rather to deny the truth. There are three things about the penalty. The "who" here is used in a qualitative sense? That is "persons who are such as" these deserve judgment.

"Shall suffer punishment" - means to pay the penalty Matthew Henry said "they did sins work, and must receive sins wages"; the word "Punishment"- means righteous punishment, look at Luke 3:17; Heb.10:29-30; 2 Peter 2:9

This phrase "everlasting destruction" does not mean annihilation or ceasing to exist. It rather means to be separated from the face of the Lord. They carry the idea of ruin, loss, to be cut off. Matt. 13:30, 49.

Verse 10: When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

The Time of the Judgment is Set. It is when Jesus comes to be glorified in His saints and to be admired in all who believe in Him. The word "In" His glory is to be seen in His saints. The world will wonder at the - height - depth - length - breadth of His love for us. The dimensions of our salvation are beyond imagination. Leon Morris said "the glory of that day will far surpass anything of which we can have any idea - and when we do behold it we shall be lost in amazement.

Verses 11-12: Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Escape from Judgment – Paul offers a prayer for these believers.

Three things are necessary to escape judgment a person must be counted worthy by God, how? A person must approach God through faith in his Son; any one whom honors Christ is counted worthy. God credits us with righteousness

God must complete the work of faith in us. We age and die and we cannot complete anything permanently. Therefore God has to take our initial faith and complete the good pleasure in us.

And complete the work of faith in us. The name of Christ must be glorified in us. We must let him live and move in us daily we must let him be glorified in us.

CHAPTER TWO

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Intro: when the Bible mentions the day of the Lord it does not refer to a single day in history. It is used to add force or

emphasis to the span of time covered. This day begins with the great event found in the following verses.

Verses 1-2: Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Paul urges these saints to guard against being shaken in their faith or troubled by the Day of the Lord. In verses 1 and 2 we see these believers at Thessalonica were so pressed they thought this day or time had begun. Someone had been spreading that rumor around claiming

- That a spirit had revealed it
- That the person had a special word -a special revelation
- That he had either received or heard of a letter from Paul stating it

Why some were being shaken in their faith, Paul pleads with them to take their focus off of the persecution and place it on the true coming of the lord. For that day is a time of judgment on unbelievers, because we are not appointed unto wrath but a glorious appearing of Jesus read the following 1 Thess. 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, and Titus 2:12-13

2. Paul says let nothing shake you, not a so-called angelic revelation or revelation by a man or a supposed letter from a "spiritual" person

Verse 3: Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Let no man deceive you. There is a need to watch for two significant events that will precede or launch this terrible day.
1Thess 5:1-3

The first event will be a great falling away of believers from God. The phrase "Falling away" is that apostasy, revolt, rebellion, against God by millions on earth.

Leon Morris said "In the last times there will be an outstanding manifestation of the powers of evil arrayed against God" there is an ample amount of scripture to prove this as seen in these three examples showing what will be happening in the church in the last days 2 Tim 3:1-5; 1Tim 4:1,2; 2 Tim 4:3-4

The second event that will launch the day of the Lord; this is a revealing of the man of sin also called the son of perdition, we commonly call him the Anti-Christ as he is a definite person who is the embodiment of all that is evil. He will be revealed indicating that he will be alive and living somewhere in the world most likely in the European Union.

Well he is revealed. A.T. Robertson "the implication is that the Man of sin is hidden somewhere who will suddenly be manifested". He is the man of lawlessness- he is the embodiment of rebellion against God.

He is the Son of perdition – this tells us that he will be so evil that he is likened to being the direct son of Satan. Therefore he is doomed to destruction. This man is not just another evil world leader, but the anti Christ. Who will launch the day of the Lord look in Revelation 13:4-9.

Whose very name is destruction Mark 13:14; Matthew 24:15

Verses 4-9: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the

mystery of iniquity doth already work:
only he who now letteth will let, until
he be taken out of the way. And then
shall that Wicked be revealed, whom
the Lord shall consume with the spirit
of his mouth, and shall destroy with
the brightness of his coming: Even
him, whose coming is after the
working of Satan with all power and
signs and lying wonders,

These six verses Paul uses to give the Thessalonian Believers some identifying marks of this Man of Sin.

Five Character traits; we have seen in verse 3 that He idealizes sin. He will fulfill Satan's dreams on earth.

Judas was said to be the son of perdition, prompting some to believe that he will be the embodiment of this new person.

He is the one who opposes all that is called God. In verse 4, he is the adversary of all that Christ stands for. He lifts himself up above God. Not only the people of God but also all religions will be required to submit or suffer. He claims to be God and above all that is to be worshipped. He does this by sitting in the temple on the throne of God Himself.

This is reference to a great world leader who will be head of a state religion encompassing all religions. It is a return to Emperor Worship. He will become this by appearing to cause all nations to live in peace and to solve all hunger in the world, along with homelessness, unemployment, poverty, medical care, crime, etc. Men would willingly serve a religion that could do that. They would worship his government, his science, and technology.

The Danger is so great

Paul taught these Thessalonians and we cannot over stress the importance of these events (apostasy, antichrist, day of the Lord) they are going to happen and soon.

- The Lord is returning to gather His people
- The great day of the Lord is going to fall
- The great apostasy is already on us

- The anti Christ will arise and create a utopia atmosphere in rebellion to God.
- With the end of this age coming people must be taught the truth.

The Revelation of Anti Christ is seen in verses 6-8. There is a set time when anti Christ shall be revealed. “Revealed in his time” right now there is a restraining power in the world holding back his appearance? There is a day coming when this power will be “taken out of the way” Let me give you three things to consider

1. “Out of the way” not taken away, there is a difference. The power will be moved or changed to allow anti Christ to work freely.
2. “He” and “what” are both used to describe this restraining power. This power can determine when to step aside.
3. Logic is to be applied in making a determination of this power. What is this power? Is it the law? No the law of man changes in both societies and generations

The true identity of this power is none other than God the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament here in Gen. 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. we see that He is described as holding back evil. He is described with both masculine and neuter terminology in the New Testament.

The “mystery of iniquity” (lawlessness is right now working in the world. A mystery in the Bible is a previously unrevealed truth.

- Why do we do the things we know are wrong?
- Why do we allow selfish barriers to be built in our lives towards family and friends, co-workers; barriers that both destroy our relationships and us?
- Why do we hoard, indulge, bank, build and then do even more of the same, neglecting the needy of the world. Why because of sin (lawlessness) in our lives. It is an unknown quantity in our lives.

In the last days the anti-Christ will be revealed in all his naked deformity- openly and brazenly working. He will cause men to want more and more and never be satisfied. For further proof read Matthew 24:10-12; Romans 1: 21-31.

The End of Anti-Christ

The Anti- Christ poses no real threat to the Lord Himself; his power is but a drop of water in the ocean. Jesus will slay the Anti- Christ with the Spirit of His mouth (breath) This is the Spirit of truth, Holiness an unlimited power. The same breath that created man will dispatch this man of evil. Christ power is irresistible read here what the Prophet Isaiah had to say in Isaiah 11:4 “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.”

He will destroy Anti-Christ with His glory (brightness) this word is only used to describe Jesus coming. It is used only five times in the New Testament, and each time it refers to His coming again. Once it refers to His first coming here in 2 Timothy 1:16 and the other 4 times to His Second Coming in the following references 1Timothy 6:14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; 2Tim 4:1, 8 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; and but unto all them also that love his appearing. Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Christ showing Himself in all His glory will destroy the Anti Christ as though a laser burnt him up, the word “destroy” does not mean annihilate but rather to render inoperative, or powerless.

Next we have the work of Anti-Christ

His purpose is to carry on Satan’s activity on the Earth. He will be the embodiment of Satan, He will carry on the lying powers and signs and wonders. He will carry out the activities of Satan. Satan will completely control his life as god completely

controlled Christ. Millions will watch and follow these lying powers and wonders

To bring peace

To adequately grow and distribute food so all may survive

To solve the problem of adequate health care, full employment no more energy crunches and all other problems will seem to be solved.

What is wrong with these? Nothing, but he will not stop there he will claim divine power and insist that all men bow to him and his science. All of these great benefits to man still end at the grave. You see his benefit can only last a person a few years barring accident. Luke 4:6 “And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it”; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Verses 10-12: And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The followers of the Anti- Christ 2:10-12

We see first that they are perishing in verse 10 the phrase “That perish” means they are in a continuous action of dying “perishing” means to be lost to be moving in the opposite direction. The Gospel is hid to them because of this Luke 13: 3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

They do not believe the truth verse 10b “Received” means to welcome, to open up to. They reject the Gospel as in John 3:19 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because

their deeds were evil”. So we can clearly see they are deceived. There are two factors involved in this deception.

1---The deceit of the deceiver

2-- The willingness of the person to reject the truth. “For this cause” the cause is one’s choice to ignore the truth. A person is not deceived apart from his own will. The law of sowing and reaping in Galatians 6:7-8 is at work in these peoples lives. Leon Morris said, “It is the law of life that those who take this step (disbelief) go further and further astray in to error.”

They are the damned

Those who take pleasure in unrighteousness are “damned” the word means to be judged, or condemned. They are this way for two reasons

First they will not believe the truth, that God loves Jesus so when a person curses him, dishonors Him, neglects, rejects, despises Him; God will not overlook this.

They will have pleasure in unrighteousness they will lust with their eyes; they will lust with their flesh.

They will seek the pride of life- position, recognition, honor, and wealth. The tragic result is that man loves himself and not God. Romans 1:26-32 “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they

which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

Verses 13-17: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

Salvation of God's followers

First Believers are saved as Paul states in verse 13 “but” there is a sharp contrast between the unbelievers and believers “beloved” why? Because we follow Christ who is the origin of God's salvation in verse 13.

Before creation God set down his plan “chosen” this is the only place this word is used it is the same word God used for choosing Israel.

God saw us as saved before we were born. Think of the security of this and compare it with these words of Jesus in John 10:28-29 “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.” and what Paul in Romans 8 tells us that “there is now therefore no condemnation”. Paul continues by saying that we have “sanctification” by the work of the

Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit takes a dead spirit and quickens it or makes it alive as Jesus tells us in John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. He convicts a man of sin, of his need to be saved and given life.

The Holy Spirit attracts men to the cross of Christ.

Also the Holy Spirit stirs a man to respond by coming to Christ.

Here is how they respond they demonstrate “Belief of the truth” or believing the gospel. Believers accept the gospel with all their hearts. When a person really believes, God saves him, and this is the promise of His word.

We find in verse 14 The Purpose of Salvation that is To gain glory for Christ – these Thessalonians were being severely persecuted. This verse would bring real comfort to them, they were headed for glory. The word “glory” here means to be full of perfect light, compare this with Romans 8:16-17, and Philipians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Next we find the Duty of Salvation in verse 15

We are to stand fast and to cling to the Word of God. The word “Traditions” in this verse means all the Word of God whether taught or written. Dr. Leon Morris had this comment on this “the prominent idea is that of an authority external to the teacher himself” We are not to knuckle under to the world and its enticements.

The Resources of Salvation

There are five listed below.

1. The believer receives the love of God and Christ
2. The person receives eternal consolation and encouragement
3. The believer receives good hope, what greater hope that to live eternally with God 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
4. The believer receives comfort- Only God can give the needed comfort

5. The believer is established in every good word and work. The word “stablish” means to strengthen, secure, and set fast. It is one-thing men long for, that is to be secure. God is able to fulfill this!

Chapter Three

III.FINAL WORDS 3:1-18

Verses 1-5: Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Pray that the word has free course (1-5)

They were suffering, however Paul was at Corinth and he too was suffering persecution and desired for them to pray for him

also. But take note he did not ask prayer for comfort, personal needs or to be removed from Corinth.

Instead He asked prayer for two things first for the word to have free course. Too often God's word has no power to influence because of the following. –Opposition ---day dreaming minds --- unprepared hearts etc. Second he asks for a “Free course” is a picture of an Olympic athlete running a race? When the word has free course, souls would be saved and lives would be changed. Believers should always be praying for the minister and teachers of the gospel, that the word might be free.

There was a need for believers to be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men (verse 2). Ministers and teachers are attacked by unreasonable and wicked people. So why would they want to attack? Because they all are not right with God when people lack reason and morality they are dangerous. Read here what Peter had to say in 2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Next we see there is the Lord's faithfulness in verse 3.

Believers may fail us when we have our greatest need. But the Lord will not. He will do things for the believer

He will work all things for good

----He will establish us and keep us from evil

----He will deliver us by overcoming our failures

--- He will deliver us by delivering us from the sting of death

He will motivate us to keep His commandments (verse 4).

When we sense a stirring within our heart to do well, that is the Spirit of God. A person can tell if he is a true believer or not by the working of the Lord within the Heart.

He directs our hearts to love God (verse 5) the word “directs” means to make straight or to be straight. Jesus will direct our focus to God's love so that when trials come we will be able to stand and be victorious

The Lord directs us to patiently await Christ's return the genuine believer will keep their eyes turned upon Christ's return. Listen to what Paul tells the church at Colosse in

Colossians 1:15 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Verses 6-18: Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in

every epistle: so I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Amen.

FINAL WORDS ON WORK AND EMPLOYMENT (6-18)

Today business places are full of disorderly workers many today chose not to work, seeking rather someone to take care of them.

Paul gives instruction for the church to withdraw from the brother who walks disorderly. There were then, those who were setting dates for the Lord's return and in so doing many believers quit working and gave everything away; and when Christ did not come they had to live off of the other believers who had not been foolish enough to quit. There are four reasons to withdraw

The idle worker disobeys instruction (verse 6) the word "tradition" means the whole word of God.

The idle person has the example of the committed worker "Paul" in verse 7, 9

The idle must work or he is not to eat. Verse 10 and Hebrews 6:11, 12. The idle tend towards being busy bodies. The mind is always active with either good or evil thoughts such as tattling, gossip, spreading rumors, poking there nose where they have no business

Paul says everyone is to work in verses 12-13

This is a command from God to work in quietness “just do your works” and be a light what ever you do. Idlers are to be disciplined in verses 14-15. They were to be put out of the fellowship, so that their shame will bring repentance. The individual was to be marked or noted by all to be disapproved of. The hope was that warnings and shame might stir their repentance compare to Ezra 9:6 WE have three great possessions in Christ. This is a concluding prayer.

1. The believer is to receive peace from the Lord of Peace. This peace comes always and at all times.
2. The believer is to receive fellowship. It is to be a very personal and deep fellowship because of Paul’s bond with them.
3. The believer receives grace- that undeserved special favor and strength that comes through and by Christ.

Conclusion: So concludes Paul’s second and last letter to the church at Thessalonica. The warnings and exhortation are as relevant today as then and maybe even more so. I encourage all to look up and keep your focus on the Lord, for He is coming soon!