

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

“Almost” Everything You Need to Know about



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I. GENERAL INFORMATION/FACTS ON THE BOOKS OF 1st THESSALONIANS AND 2nd THESSALONIANS

- A. **Name of the Books:** 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians
- B. **Positions of the Books In the Bible:** **First Thessalonians** is preceded by Paul's Letter to the Colossians, and followed by his Second Letter to the Thessalonians, **Second Thessalonians** and the Pastoral Letters, First Timothy, Second Timothy, and Titus.
- C. **Author/Editor:** 1 Thessalonians: The First Letter of Paul and 2 Thessalonians, Paul/Unknown?

The seven authentic or “undisputed” letters of Paul, in roughly chronological order, are as follows:

- 1 Thessalonians – Galatians - 1 Corinthians - 2 Corinthians
- Philemon – Philippians – Romans

From: The Authentic Letters of Paul (Dewey et al)

- D. **When was it Written:** It was composed about 51 AD
- E. **Who was It Written To/For?** To the Thessalonians which may have been the first written letter of the New Testament of the Bible
- F. **Purpose of the Book:**
 - 1. To thank the Thessalonians for their faithfulness to discipleship,
 - 2. To encourage them to hold fast to their faith,
 - 3. To remind them of the promise ahead
- G. Key People
 - i. Paul and Timothy
- H. Key Verses 4:13:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 King James Version (KJV)

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.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.



NIV: ¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words

II. INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

- A. 1st Thessalonians was composed in the immediate aftermath of Paul's first visit to the city, after he had established the Christian church on European soil at Phillippi about one hundred miles away.



- B. The New Testament gives the impression that PAUL PENNED TWO EPISTLES to the Thessalonians, however, only 1st Thessalonians can be attributed to him with assurance, not 2nd Thessalonians.
- C. The second coming in 2nd Thessalonians is an unequivocal contrast to the imminent and sudden end expected in 1 Thessalonians.

III. GENERAL OUTLINE

1st Thessalonians:

1:1 Salutations

1: 2-10 Thanksgiving – The Fatherhood of God

1:6-10 – At Once Imitators and Examples – Imitated what Paul endured, and followed example of faithfulness

2:1-12 – Sufferings in Philippi and Overcoming Opposition in Thessalonica

3-8, A strategy of Integrity

9-12, A self-Supportive and Non-Exploitive Evangelism

2: 13 – 16, Renewed Thanksgiving for Their Conversion despite Local Opposition.

In the early history of the church the Christians focused on primarily on reaching Jews with the gospel In Romans 1:16 Paul referred to this priority by stating, “For I am no ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” When a disorderly crowd of Jews in Antioch in Pisidia rejected the gospel message that Paul and Barnabas preached the two missionaries announced. “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold we are turning to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46)

2:17-19 A deep Longing to Return to Thessalonica

3:1-5 Timothy Dispatched, and Continuing Persecutions at Thessalonica

3: 6-10 Timothy Returns with Good News

3:11-13, Literary Transition through Prayers. He’s excited about good news and rays to return to Thessalonica.

4:1-7, A Personal Life Pleasing to God – Have learned by Paul’s example. I Cor 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ

4:8, Paul’s Holy Sentence

4: 9-12, Guidelines for a Beloved and Self-Sufficient Community: A good example for St.

Matthew

4:13-15 Concerning the Eschaton (the final event in the divine plan; the end of the world) and Believers Who Have Already Died. What about those who had already died? Read 14b

4:16-18, How the Parousia (Second Coming) Will Unfold

5:1-5 On Discerning When the End Will Come - - like a thief in the night

Mark 13: 32-37; Matthew 24: 3-14; Acts 1:6-9

5:6-11, Encouraging Words on Vigilance – Don't sleep, stay woke!

5:12-22, Resumption of Ethical Instruction – Unrest among the ranks of believers

5:23-28, Final Injunctions and Benediction – Greet with a holy kiss (2Cor 13:12, Romans 16:16)

2nd Thessalonians

1:1-2, The Prescript or Salutation

1:3-12, The occasion of the Epistle

1:3b-4 Thanksgiving

1: 5-10, Assurances of God's Justice: Relief and Divine Retribution – Unlike Paul's emphasis on grace and mercy. 1:9 emphasizes a God of wrath who will settle the score more like Revelations.

Verses 6-9

1:11-12, We Pray for You

2:1-12, The Lord's Coming and the Heresy of the Lawless One

Verses 1-2 introduce the topic of the "day of the Lord" and insists that believers should not be disturbed by any teaching to the effect that it has already arrived. Verses 3-12 then explain in detail how the writer knows that the "day of the Lord" has NOT arrived and what must happen before that time can come. - **READ: 2: 6-12**

2:13-17, Gratitude and Comfort – **Stand Firm**

3:1-17, We Too Need Prayer in This Struggle – Hold onto traditions! Idle hands are the devil's workshop!!!