

1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Paul's first two epistles were to the ekklesia in Thessalonica, where he had spent three weeks.
- They are the most important eschatological epistles of the New Testament:
 - Paul introduces the concepts of the Rapture...
 - ... and the Day of the Lord (Second Coming).
- 2nd Thessalonians is a response to a apparent forgery attributed to Paul that circulated soon after Paul left.
- Also after Paul left, Roman persecutions had begun, concurrent with introduction of Emperor worship.

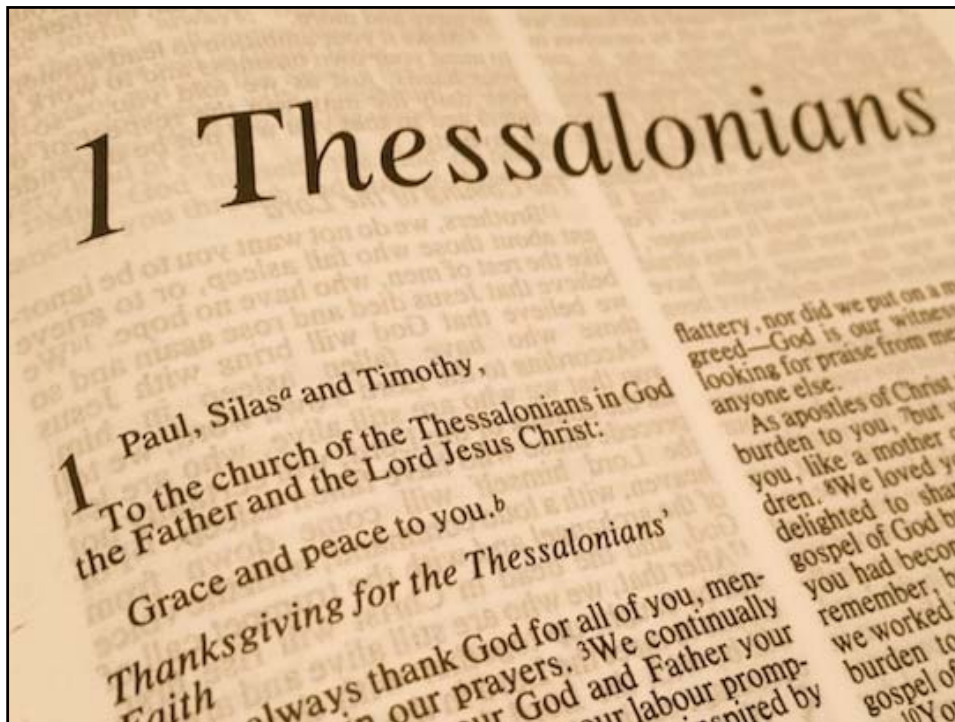
eschatology

noun. [ess-cat-[tol]-a-jee].

1. The branch of theology that is concerned with the end of the world or of humankind.
2. The study of last things.

2nd Timothy 3:16-17

- ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



KEY THEME

The coming of
Christ for the
church

1 Thessalonians

KEY VERSE

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9–10

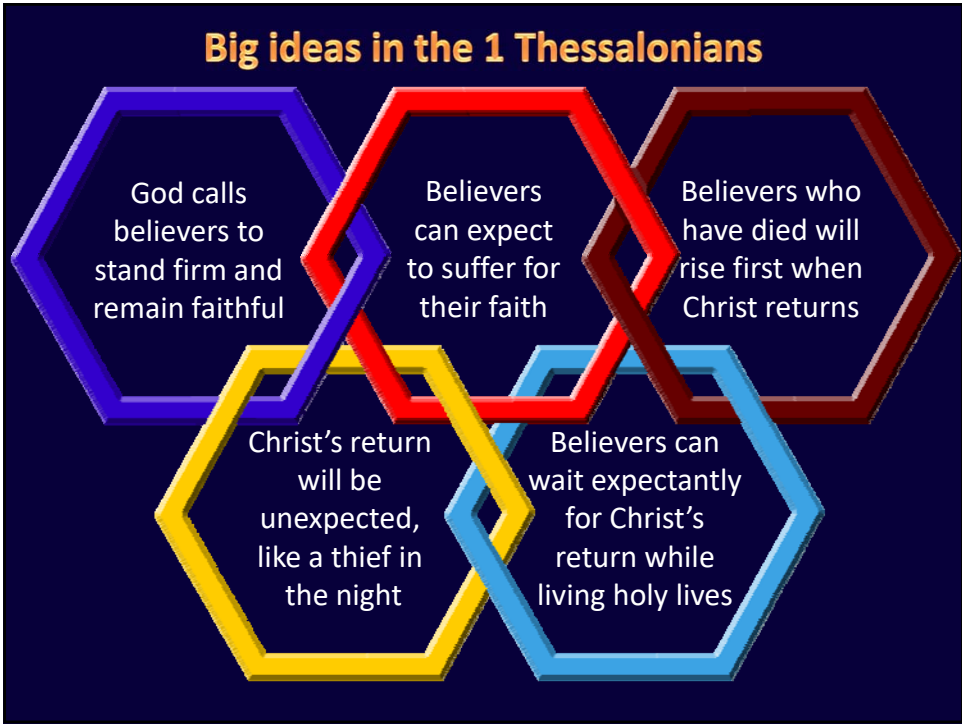
Outline of 1 Thessalonians

PAUL REMEMBERS (Chapters 1-3)

- How the church was born (Chapter 1)
- How the church was nurtured (Ch. 2)
- How the church was established (Ch. 3)

PAUL EXHORTS (Chapter 4-5)

- The church should walk in holiness (Ch. 4:1–8)
- In harmony (Ch. 4:9–10)
- In honesty (Ch. 4:11–12)
- In hope (Ch. 4:13–5:11)
- In helpfulness (Ch. 5:12–28)



5 **WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT**

**PAUL'S II
THESSALONIANS**

KEY THEME

The church and the Day of the Lord

2 Thessalonians

Synonyms for Day of the Lord

Day of Trouble	Day of Destruction
Day of Vengeance	Day of Battle and War
Day of Wrath	Day of thy power
Day of Their Calamity	Day of Grief and Desperate Sorrow
Day of Christ	Day of the Lord's Sacrifice
Day of the Lord's Anger	Day of Trouble and Distress
His Day	Day of Trumpet and Alarm
Day of Darkness	Day of Wasteness and Desolation
Day of Clouds and Thick Darkness	Day of His Coming
In the Wrath of the Lord of Hosts	Day of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Day of His Fierce Anger	Wrath of the Lamb
Day of Distress	Great Day of His Wrath
Day of Indignation	

KEY VERSE

¹Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, ²that 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.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2

Paul

- **Paul** ("the least"), born Saul of Tarsus (4 BC-c. 62–64 AD), a leader of the first generation of Christians.
- His epistles have had enormous influence on Christian theology and comprise half the New Testament.
- As apostle to the Gentiles, Paul played a crucial role in development of Christianity away from its Jewish parent, but retaining its Jewish roots.
- He supported himself as a tent maker, working with leather.
- 2 Thessalonian was probably written several months after 1 Thessalonians.



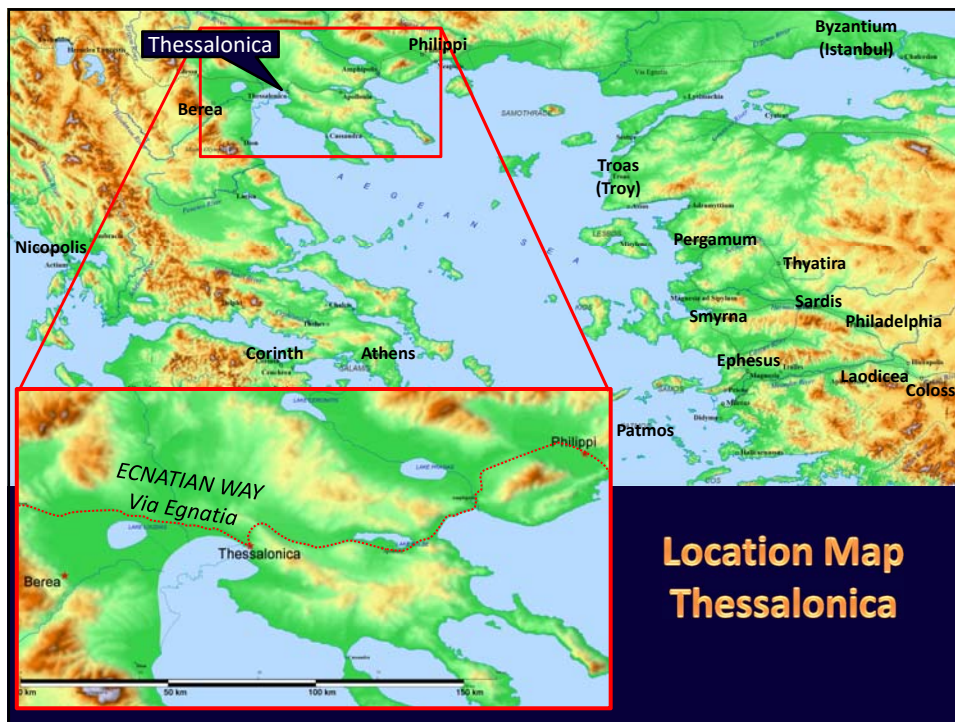
Oldest known picture of Paul (4th Century AD)



Thessalonica (formerly Salonika)

- Originally named Therma from the many hot springs.
- In 315 BC, it was renamed Thessalonica after Alexander the Great's half-sister.
- Became a province capital when Rome conquered Macedonia in 168 BC.
- In Paul's day, about 200,000 lived there; today it's an important port, commercial and industrial city of 300,000 and Greece's second largest city.
- In WWII, the occupying Germans sent its Jewish population of 60,000 to extermination camps.





Outline of 2 Thessalonians

ENCOURAGEMENT IN SUFFERING (Chapter 1)

- Encouragement in praise—1:1–4
- Encouragement in promise—1:5–10
- Encouragement in prayer—1:11–12

ENLIGHTENMENT IN TEACHING (Chapter 2)

- How the man of sin appears—2:1–7
- How the Son of God appears—2:8–12
- How the child of God should live—2:13–17

ENABLEMENT IN LIVING (Chapter 3)

- Obey the Word—3:1–6
- Follow our example—3:7–9
- Discipline the unruly—3:10–15
- Closing benediction—3:16–18



2 Thessalonians 1 - Encouragement

The Encouragement of Praise

Greeting

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Final Judgment and Glory

³ We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, ⁴ so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

The Encouragement of Promise

⁵ *which is* manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; ⁶ since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Contrast of 1 and 2 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians

- Christ comes in the air for His church (4:13–18)
- A sudden secret rapture that can occur at any time
- Can occur today
- The day of Christ

2 Thessalonians

- Christ comes to the earth with His church (1:10)
- A crisis that is part of a predicted program
- Can occur only after certain events happen
- The day of the Lord

The Encouragement of Prayer

- ¹¹ Therefore we also 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,
¹² that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2 – God’s timetable

The Great Apostasy

- ¹ Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² 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 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, ⁴ 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.

Day of the LORD

The Apostasy

The Antichrist

The Third Temple

The Man of Sin's Satanic Parody of Christ

- His *parousia*, coming (Ch. 2:9, 2:1)
- His *apocalypse*, revelation (Ch. 2:3, 1:7-8)
- His *gospel*, the lie vs. the truth (Ch. 2:10-12)
- He sits as God in the Temple of God (Ch. 2:4)
- He will brook no rival (Ch. 2:4)
 - with all **power**, denotes the cause of the miracle; the inherent power producing it
 - **signs**, point to the significance lying behind the miracles, and
 - **lying wonders**, indicates the abnormal nature, and the astonishment they produce.
- He is empowered by Satan, (Ch. 2:9)

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

Taught in 3 weeks

⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ 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.

The Restrainer

The Snatch

⁸ **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, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The Antichrist

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

The Unsaved

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

²¹ Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes,
And prudent in their own sight!

(Isaiah 5:20,21)

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools.

(Romans 1:22)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² **Professing to be wise, they became fools,** ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ **Therefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

(Romans 1:18-25)

²⁶ For this reason **God gave them up** to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over** to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

(Romans 1:26-32)

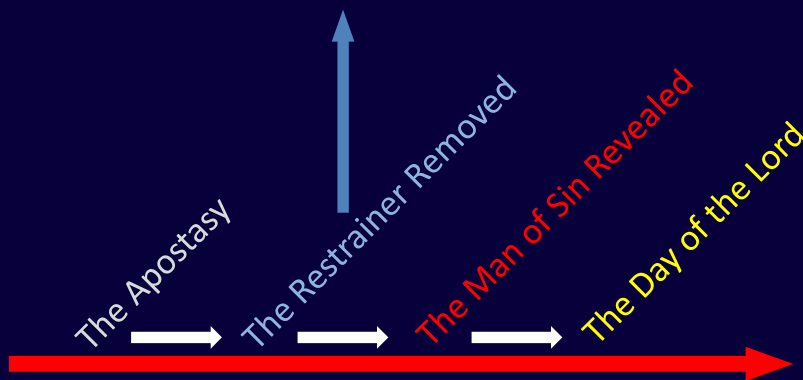
**Wilful rejection of truth
results in the love of evil;
evil becomes their good.**

Stand Fast

¹³ **But** we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

The Order of Events



“... for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first...” (2:3)

“He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” (2:7)

“And then the lawless one will be revealed...” (2:8)

2 Thessalonians 3 – Enablement in Living

Pray for Us

- 1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.
- 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.
- 5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

Warning Against Idleness

- 6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.
- 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, ⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.
- 10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

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

¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

Thessalonians 3 Practical Admonitions

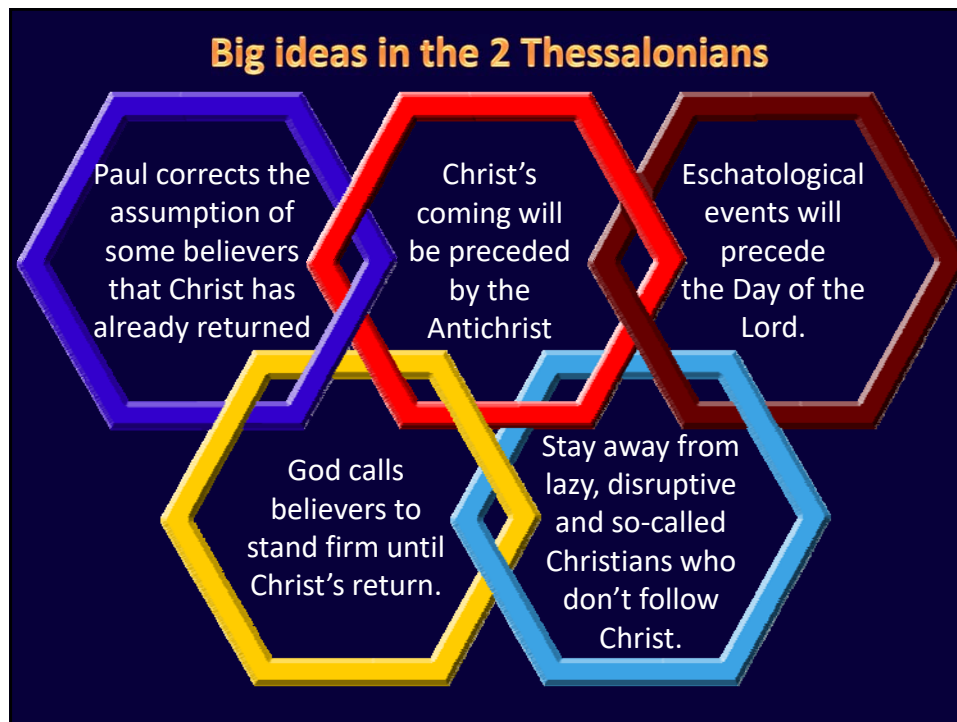
1. Pray and Be Patient (Ch. 3:1–5)
2. Work If You Want to Eat (Ch. 3:6–13)
3. Be Doers not just Hearers (Ch. 3:14–18)

Benediction

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

¹⁷ The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.



Eschatology Issues

The Rapture	The Second Coming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of believers • Translated saints go to heaven • Earth not judged • Imminent, any moment, signless • Not in the Old Testament • Believers Only • Before the Day of Wrath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No translation involved • Translated saints return to earth • Earth judged • Follows definite predicted signs • Predicted in the Old Testament • Affects all men on the earth • Concludes the Day of Wrath

Contrast of 1 and 2 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians

- Christ comes in the air for His church (4:13–18)
- A sudden secret rapture that can occur at any time
- Can occur today
- The day of Christ

2 Thessalonians

- Christ comes to the earth with His church (1:10)
- A crisis that is part of a predicted program
- Can occur only after certain events happen
- The day of the Lord