

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Breakdown

- 1 & 2 Thessalonians are the 8th & 9th epistles in the New Testament and were written by Paul to the church at Thessalonica which is currently the second largest city in Greece.
- The church at Thessalonica was established during Paul's second missionary journey and was mostly comprised of Gentile Christians.
- Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Church from Corinth while still on his second missionary journey in 50 A.D. The second letter was written only a few months after the first.

Main Points

- In fulfillment of God's promises, Jesus the Messiah had come to the earth, lived, died, arose, and ascended to make a way for every person to be reconnected with God. There were people in the church who believed that the gospel of Jesus was too good to be true, so they persecuted the early church and tried every possible way to lead them away from believing in Jesus as Savior. This was the experience of the Thessalonian Church.
- Paul wrote his first letter to the Thessalonian believers after Timothy had given him a good report that the believers' faith and love were strong in spite of the persecution they were experiencing. Just a few months later, Paul wrote another letter of encouragement to the Thessalonians. He reminded them that Jesus is coming again. He talked about some of the things that would happen and how believers should live until Jesus returns.

Did you know?

- Paul is the main writer of the letters to the Thessalonian Church, but he wasn't alone. Which 2 men were with him as he wrote?
- While Paul and his friends were in Thessalonica, they were not a burden on the believers there. What did Paul and his friends do as they preached the good news to the people?
- Paul reminded the church that God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. What did Paul say about anyone who refuses to live this way?
- Paul said the day that Jesus returns to the earth will come unexpectedly. What did he compare that day to?
- In his second letter, Paul talked about an event that the Thessalonian Church had been told had already happened. What event was Paul talking about?
- Paul said that before Jesus returns, the man of lawlessness must be revealed. What did Paul say the man will come to do?
- What did Paul say would happen to people who refuse to work?

Further Thought

- Paul said the Thessalonian believers had become an example to others. What made them an example? And how can we follow that same example in our own lives?
- The Thessalonian Church had been having a tough time, so Paul encouraged them by talking about the return of Jesus to the earth. What affect does the promise of Jesus' return have on our daily lives? How can we keep the hope of His return alive in our hearts?