



# 1 & 2 Thessalonians

## WAITING FOR THE KING

(7 BIBLE STUDIES)

**EXAMINATION APPLICATION**

**BIBLE STUDIES**



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## THE SMALL PRINT

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Co

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## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THESE STUDIES

### **Your Commitment**

I would encourage you to make a commitment to attending your group regularly. I realise that sometimes there are things that get in the way, but do prioritise studying the Bible with other. This will involve sacrifice, and effective use of your time, but I really believe that in doing so you will get the most out of studying the Bible and praying together in your small group.

### **Your Contribution**

What you put into the group is going to determine what you get out of the group. I encourage you to contribute honestly to the discussion and workings of the group. I understand people come from different backgrounds with unique personalities & life experiences. But, we all have a big part to play, so I encourage you to be fully present and take ownership of your group.

### **Your Preparation**

These materials are primarily for use in preparing and/or leading group discussions, but they will also be useful in keeping your thoughts together in one place. The materials provide you with the passage so that you can identify and highlight recurring themes and note down your own thoughts and questions. Also, the materials include questions designed to provoke thought, and help you reflect on what the passage meant, both at the time it was written, and also what it means for us now.

I would encourage you to make good use of these materials, as doing so will help you contribute and get the most out of the group discussions. The materials are, however, only “tools” – they are there to help you, and not to restrict you, or force you to think in a certain manner. I want to see God speaking to you through these passages, and if the questions or notes don't help you, simply don't use them!

I have also included within these materials an introduction to the book. Make of this what you will, but I hope that it is helpful in getting you started with these studies!

### **Your Leadership**

Here are some useful pointers in how to lead your Bible study group. Be aware that included in this study guide are more questions than you can possibly ask and/or answer in one session. They are not designed to be used rigidly, and there will rarely be a need to ask every question! Make sure that you spend some time praying at the start and ensure you read & re-read the passages as much as possible. In relation to the passages, then consider the suggested questions with an open mind. There is rarely “a single right answer” and I would encourage you to share your thoughts with your group.

I have also included a number of quotations from relevant Christian literature, most of which are readily available online if you want to do further thinking or study. My prayer is that as you study together you would grow to love Jesus and experience Him more deeply.

I would appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how to make these materials even better!

*Steve McClure  
Spring 2019*

## INTRODUCING 1&2 THESSALONIANS

There is some consensus with Paul's letters to the Thessalonians that he wrote them from Corinth somewhere between 50-52AD. There may have only around 6 months between the two letters! It is likely that 1 Thessalonians was Paul's earliest letter (though some would argue for Galatians). Few would doubt Paul as the author of both letters and indeed they identify him as such along with Silas and Timothy (1 Thess 1:1, 2 Thess 1:1).

Thessalonica was the capital of the large province of Macedonia. It was a large city (200,000 people) and the synagogue was likely to have been quite sizeable. The city lay on the 'Via Egnatia', a paved road and major route running east to west through the Empire. Thessalonica was a busy seaport and therefore an important hub for trade and communications. It was lined with plenty of places to trade or rest. Paul spent some weeks in Thessalonica before jealous Jews stirred up a riot (Acts 17:1-9). Berea was a town located 12 miles south of the road. Paul, Silas and Timothy escaped to this quieter location whilst the heat from Thessalonica died down (See Acts 17:10-15) soon after the riot. The church in Thessalonica was formed out of this visit Paul made to the city and it is likely that the church was made up predominantly of Gentiles (see 1 Thess 1:9-10 & Acts 17:4).

The letter of 1 Thessalonians arises from a report that Timothy had brought back from the Thessalonians. Paul writes to encourage them (1:2-10), especially in the midst of suffering and persecution (2:13-16). He writes to answer false allegations (2:1-12) and show his joy at hearing about their faith (2:17-3:13). Paul also raises issues of purity (4:1-8), laziness (4:11-12) and conflict within the church (5:12-15). Paul writes the letter of 2 Thessalonians to encourage this young church particularly in the face of persecution (1:3-12), to address matters of church discipline (3:6-15) and to correct their thinking about the future. In fact both letters have a significant focus on the Second Coming of Christ. In 1 Thessalonians Paul writes to respond to a concern about those who have already fallen asleep (1 Thess 4:13-18). In fact in every chapter in 1 Thessalonians finishes with something about the Second Coming! In 2 Thessalonians almost half of the verses deal with the Second Coming.

*Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup> so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. <sup>9</sup> Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. **1 Thessalonians 2:7b-12***

These are some of my favourite verses lie in these letters and are part of Paul's defence of his ministry among them. They speak of the role they played (and still do play) as spiritual parents to the Thessalonians. Paul talks about their strategy to share not only the gospel but their lives as well. This disciple-making was personal (suited to the individual), relational (born out in doing life together), intentional (worked out with a purpose), generational (designed to help equip others to do the same) and reproducible (using tools that people are able to re-use themselves in the lives of others).

Steve McClure  
Spring 2019

**INTRODUCTION:** We find the background to Paul's visit to Thessalonica in Acts 17:1-9. The church there was most likely less than a year old and under attack from all sides and yet in the midst of this, we see that they were living out their faith, hope and love. Moreover, they were known for doing so!

**SETTING THE SCENE:** Read through the chapter and try to summarise what Paul is trying to say. In the life of this young Thessalonian Church, How do you see the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? What evidence is there of Paul's ongoing concern for the Thessalonians?

**FAITH, HOPE & LOVE (v2-3):** What excites you or surprises you about the things that Paul is praying for them? Why do you think Paul associates 'work' with 'faith' (James 2:22), 'labour' with 'love' (1 Cor 13) and 'endurance' with 'hope' (Rom 5:3-5)? What might others say about these things in your life?

**THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION (v4-5):** What is the basis for Paul's confidence in what God had done in the lives of the Thessalonians? What do you think Paul means when he says the gospel came with 'power, the Holy Spirit and deep conviction' (see also Rom 1:16 & 1 Cor 2:4-5)?

**IMITATION AND JOY (v6-7):** How do you respond to these ideas of imitation and modelling to/for others? Who are the people you have imitated or been a model for? What do you think it would look like to be joyful even when walking with Jesus leads to suffering? What is the relationship between joy and imitating Christ (See also Rom 15:13)?

**PASSING IT ON (v8-10):** How is the idea used in v8 (rang out, reverberated, derived from *echos*, an echo or noise) an appropriate metaphor about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ? What do you think that this looked like in practice? What does this look like for us today?

After the Thessalonians turned from their idols, they began to serve God and to wait for Jesus' return (v9-10). Looking back on your own journey of faith what is your experience of turning from idols, serving God and waiting for Jesus' return?

**SPHERES OF INFLUENCE:** Where are your spheres of influence where the Lord's message can become known through your words and presence? What are we modelling to others and for what have we / could we / should we become famous for throughout spheres of influence?

**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** What is the one truth or practical application that has really stood out to you from this chapter and how will it make a difference in your life?

**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share some of the key challenges to growing in faith, hope and love in your daily lives and pray through these things. Pray too that each of you would be someone through whom the good news rings out to the people you live, work and study with day by day.

**MEMORY VERSE: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:3**

STUDY 2 – 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16 – A MODEL FOR MINISTRY

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul's enemies had worked hard to challenge both his authority and the gospel he had preached. In this section, we learn from the way that he defends his ministry and also something of his heart for the Christians in Thessalonica.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What would you describe as the key characteristics of a faithful Christian worker? Why do you think that fruitfulness always attracts so much opposition and what is your experience of experiencing such opposition in the gospel?

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**DEFENDING HIS MINISTRY (v1-6):** What do you think were the malicious rumours that some were circulating about Paul? How did Paul deal with that and how have we / would we respond ourselves to such people, to those who speak evil about us?

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In what sense were Paul and his companions like "stewards" guarding the gospel that had been "entrusted" to them? What are some possible pitfalls / impure motives for Christian workers?

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What steps can we then take to imitate Paul in *daring* to share the gospel with others (v2)? What holds us back from sharing the gospel (e.g. fear, embarrassment)

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**SPIRITUAL PARENTING (v7-12):** What does it mean to be a spiritual parent; like a mother and like a father (v7-8)? How could we *or* should we be like "mothers" and "fathers" with others? How do you think this "parental" approach to ministry might be abused?

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Why does Paul describe his relationship with the Thessalonians as parent-child rather than say teacher-student or commander-soldier? What do you think was 'involved our sharing their lives as well' (v8) and what might that look like for us today?

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Why was Paul so eager not to be a burden to the Thessalonians? What might that mean for us today as we seek to help and care for others?

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**RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD (v13-16):** What does it mean to accept the word of God as "the word of God" rather the "word of men" and what does Paul mean when he says this Word is at work in "you who believe" (v13)?

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In what ways did the Thessalonians imitate the Churches in Judea (v14)? Who are the people that you have imitated and who in turn might be imitating you? What has this involved for you?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** What does it mean for us to apply the metaphors Paul uses in this chapter (herald, steward, father and mother) in our own lives? What will it look like for us to guard and proclaim the gospel? What will it look like for us to love, nurture and teach others?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share the things that challenge and encourage you from the example of Paul as described in this passage. Pray for one another that you would have a growing heart for people and that in time you would each have the chance to be spiritual parents for others.

**MEMORY VERSES: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8**



**STUDY 3 – 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13 – A MINISTRY OF LOVE**

**INTRODUCTION:** This passage gives a further insight into the heart of Paul. He felt that they had been torn away from these young Christians in Thessalonica against his will. All attempts to visit had thus far failed and so finally Paul sent Timothy to check up on them and bring back a report.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** To what extent can you identify with Paul's longing for them? How have you experienced painful and forced separation from people that you have grown to love?

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**PAUL'S INTENSE LONGING (2:17-18):** How does it demonstrate the depth of Paul's feelings and his passion for the church in Thessalonica? Why do you think that this separation was so hard for Paul? What do you think Paul means by saying that Satan stopped them from visiting them (v18)?

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**PAUL'S HOPE, JOY & CROWN (2:19-20):** How do you interpret Paul's words that the Thessalonians would be his hope, joy, and crown when Jesus returns (see also 1 Cor 9:25, 2 Tim 4:8, James 1:12, 1 Pet 5:4, Rev 2:10, 4:10)? In the same way, who are our own hope, joy, glory and crown?

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**TIMOTHY SENT TO FOLLOW UP (v1-5):** What was Paul was hoping to find out about their faith by sending Timothy to visit them? What might Timothy's goal to "strengthen and encourage" have looked like in practice? Why was Paul so afraid that their efforts might have been in vain (v5)?

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**TIMOTHY'S ENCOURAGING REPORT (v6-10):** In what ways was Paul encouraged by Timothy's report? Why does Paul say that 'now we really live' (v8) and what does he mean by it? Why do you think that the faith of his spiritual children was so important, a matter of life and death?

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What is/was Paul's role and God's role in supplying what was lacking in the Thessalonians' faith (v10)? In particular, how should we see the role of prayer in helping someone else? How do you respond to Paul's comment that they pray 'most earnestly' for them 'night and day'?

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**PRAYER MINISTRY (v11-13):** How does Paul pray for the Thessalonians here and what does his prayer reveal about what he desired for them? How are the things Paul prays for relevant to what the Thessalonians were dealing with?

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**THE RETURN OF THE KING (2:19 & 3:13):** Paul again mentions Jesus' return here. Why do you think that Paul keeps on mentioning this throughout this letter (see also 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:1-11)? In what ways are the things Paul is writing about preparing them for Jesus' return?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** In the face of the fact that ministry is challenging and might involve separation and/or disappointment how does this passage encourage you that it is all worth it? What does this passage you about developing a heart for helping others?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Give thanks to God for those who have shown such heart for you and your development and pray for those that you are also seeking to help. Ask God to give you such a ministry of love amongst the people that God is bringing into your life.

**MEMORY VERSES: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-10**

**STUDY 4 – 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-18 – LIVING OUT OUR HOPE**

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul now turns to what it is going to live out the gospel for these young Thessalonian believers. He wants them to devote themselves to pleasing God, to be self-controlled and to love one another. This is part of what Paul means by “what was lacking in their faith” (3:10).

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What difference has living out the gospel meant for you (give examples)? How do the chapters 1-3 prepare the way for the practical things Paul now has to teach them?

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**PLEASING GOD (v1-2):** What do you think it looks like to ‘live in order to please God’? What motivates (or could motivate) how we live? Why is it so important that ‘pleasing God’ be our motivation to live (see also Rom 14:17-18, 2 Cor 5:9-10, Eph 5:8-10, Col 1:9-14)?

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What does Paul communicate to the Thessalonians by urging them to do this ‘more and more’ (v1, 10)? What does it imply about his motivation for writing?

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**BEING SELF-CONTROLLED (v3-8):** How do you understand the motivations Paul gives to encourage them to live by God’s principles for sexuality? What is (and isn’t) God’s will for our sexuality and how we use our bodies? See also Rom 6:19, Rom 12:1, 1 Cor 6:13-20, Phil 1:20-24?

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What makes it hard to live distinctive Christian lives in the area of sexuality and relationships? How might we take advantage of a brother/sister in the area of sexual immorality (v6)? What do we need to do in order to bring the use of our time and energy in line with God’s will for our lives?

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**BROTHERLY LOVE (v9-12):** How do we learn what it means to love one another? What does Paul mean when he says that they have been ‘taught by God’ to love one another (v9)? The present tense verb in Greek indicates a continuous, perpetual activity: what does this love look like in practice?

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What is the strategy Paul outlines for how the Thessalonians should reach out to their friends in v11-12? How does this compare with what he says in other letters? Why might doing these things draw people to God? What spiritual dangers do we avoid when we live quietly and mind our own business?

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**GRIEVING IN HOPE (v13-18):** What had the Thessalonians had understood about Jesus' return and what would happen to those who had already passed away? With what reasons for 'hope' does Paul encourage them? How should grieving with this hope differ from grieving without such hope'?

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What do we learn here about what will happen when Jesus returns? How would these words have encouraged/reassured the Thessalonians (v18)? How should we respond to God for the certainty of his return and for his gift of hope?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** How is God asking us to change our motivations and actions in order to please Him more and more and to have an increasing impact on our non-believing friends?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** In light of the study share some of the areas in which you are presently struggling to live such God-pleasing and God-honouring lives. Pray for one another in these struggles and ask God to transform one another more into His likeness.

**MEMORY VERSE: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1**

**STUDY 5 – 1 THESSALONIANS 5 – READINESS AND COMMUNITY**

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul here points the Thessalonians away from the question of dates and times towards the bigger question of being alert and ready (v1-11). Then in the second half, Paul turns to the question of what it means to be a community in their leadership, fellowship and worship.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** Why do you think so many people have tried to pin down the date of Christ's return? To what extent does the thought of Jesus' return feature in your thinking and what impact does it have on your daily lives?

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**WAITING FOR JESUS (v1-11):** In what sense will His coming be like the coming of a night-time burglar (v1) and the onset of labour for a pregnant woman (v2)? How do the attitudes and behaviour of those who belong to the light (v5,8) differ from those who belong to the darkness (v5-7)?

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**SPIRITUAL ARMOUR:** Paul mentions faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. What is the significance of these pieces of armour and why do we need them (see Eph 6:10-18)? How do you think Paul envisioned us putting on faith, love and hope as armour?

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**EAGER EXPECTATION:** What impact do you think Jesus' return should have on our daily lives? How do we find a balance between ignorance (e.g. scoffing that it could be soon) and obsession (e.g. trying to predict the date)? How practically can we encourage one another as we wait for Christ to return?

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**COMMUNITY (v12-28):** How do you think that the importance of 'community' is portrayed throughout this section through what is said and what is implied?

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**LEADERSHIP (v12-13):** What does Paul have to say to the Thessalonians about how they treat their leaders? Why do you suppose that Paul says these things? What responsibilities does Paul place upon those in positions of leadership?

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**FELLOWSHIP (v14-18):** What attitudes and/or behaviour does Paul affirm or denounce in these verses? What can we infer from these verses about some of the situations going on in this young church? How might these things have transformed this young community if lived out in practice?

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**WORSHIP (v19-28):** How can quench the Spirit's fire or treat prophesies with contempt (v19-20)? What would it look like if we tested everything (v21)? What can we learn from the way that Paul prays for the Thessalonians here (v23)?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** Is this chapter just a series of disconnected thoughts or is there a harmony of thought progression? Why? How is God challenging you about what it means to be ready and living together in community as we wait for Jesus' return?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Encourage one another to live faithfully for Christ now and to be ready for Jesus' return. Ask God to help you play a part in transforming the communities that you are part of through how you worship God together, how you treat your leaders and how you relate to one another.

**MEMORY VERSES: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-5**

**STUDY 6 – 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-2:12 – PERSECUTION AND FALSE TEACHING**

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul and his team write again to the church in Thessalonica and in this section, the focus is very much framed around persecution, trial and false teaching. As with the first letter, Paul comes at these things from the viewpoint of 'Waiting for the King'.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** To what extent have you experienced (or are experiencing) persecution or trials because of your faith? What helped you to endure? Have you come across false teaching? If so how did you identify it and what was the impact (e.g. anger, confusion, doubt) it had on you?

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**THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER (1:1-4):** What do these verses tell us about the relationships Paul had with these young believers? What were the things that caused Paul to be thankful and how did this compare with the first letter (see 1 Thess 1:2-3)?

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If Paul was writing a second letter to you what would he write about your how your faith has developed over the past year? What about you; who are you helping to grow in faith, love and perseverance?

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**GOD JUSTICE (1:5-10):** In light of persecutions and trials, how does Paul argue that God is just? How and when will God work out this justice? What is your response to the terrible scene of judgement which Paul describes here? What is the hope for those who believe within these difficult verses?

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**PAUL'S PRAYER (1:11-12):** Why does all of 'this' (v1-11) motivate Paul to pray constantly? Break down the content of this prayer; how these things will help them stand firm as they wait for Jesus to return? How does Paul's prayer in purpose, content and style compare with your own prayers?

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**THE DAY OF THE LORD (2:1-3):** How does Paul refute this false teaching that the day of the LORD had already come (also implied in 4:13-18)? What things can we be sure about (as opposed to just speculating) regarding what must happen before this time?

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**THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (2:4-12):** What is clear from these verses about the man of lawlessness (or antichrist)? How do you feel about the description Paul gives of him?

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**RESTRAINT (2:5-8):** There is much debate as to what holds back the man of lawlessness; something clearly known to the Thessalonians. The 3 major views are (1) the Holy Spirit, (2) Paul & the preaching of the gospel and (3) Rome and the power of the state. Which do you favour and what does the passage actually say about this power and what will happen when it is removed?

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**REBELLION AND RETRIBUTION (2:9-12):** Following the period of restraint will be a period of rebellion and a final period of retribution. What sense can you make of these particularly difficult teaching Paul gives about the various comings and deceptions?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** How might the things that Paul has shared encourage both us and his original leaders? How does this chapter help you wait expectantly for the return of the King?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share any situations where you are facing persecution, trials or false teaching. Encourage and pray for one another in regard to all God that God is doing in your lives.

**MEMORY VERSE: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:11**



**STUDY 7 – 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-3:18 – IDLENESS AND STANDING FIRM**

**INTRODUCTION:** In contrast to Paul's teaching at the end of the last study, it is clear that Paul feels much more confident with them. He gives thanks for them and urges them to stand firm. In chapter 3 Paul encourages them to keep the Word of God central and warns them against idleness.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What have been some of the key challenges to you as you have sought to stand firm in faith? Why do you think that the idle and disruptive would prove to be so divisive for this young Thessalonian church?

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**PAUL'S CONFIDENCE (2:13-17):** How does the word "but" (v13) help transition us from the previous section? What were the grounds for Paul's confidence for the Thessalonians; see esp. what God was doing in these young believers?

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How might Paul's instructions in v15-17 help the Thessalonians to continue to stand firm and hold firm to the gospel in the midst of the trials and persecution they faced? In the same way, how might living out these instructions help you amidst the challenges that you face?

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**PRAYER AND OBEDIENCE (3:1-5):** What things does Paul ask them to pray for? How do these things compare with the priorities implied from the content of your own prayers? Is the rapid spread of the gospel a consuming passion for you like it was for Paul? If not, why? What again are the grounds for Paul's confidence in what God was doing in the Thessalonians (v3-5)?

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**IDLENESS AND DISRUPTION (3:6-15):** What do you make of this conflict in the church between the workers and those described as idle and disruptive? What is the big deal here; i.e. why was this such a big issue for the Thessalonians (remember it was also mentioned in 1 Thess 5:4)?

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Many commentators believe the motivator for such idleness was the belief that Jesus' return was imminent. How does this contrast with Paul's (and indeed Jesus') teaching about being ready?

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How does Paul's own example contrast with what Paul is describing here? Why do you think Paul focuses primarily on how to deal with such people (rather than addressing those people directly as he seems to in v12)? What do we learn here about how church discipline should be worked out?

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**GRACE AND PEACE (3:16-18):** With the conflict threatening to divide the church what does Paul's final prayer imply about what he saw as the solution to this issue? What are the situations within your own communities in which the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is desperately needed?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** What practical steps do you think God wants to you to take in order to help your own church/community to better reflect the vision presented to us by Paul in these letters? What are the two or three most significant lessons which stand out from these studies?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Pray for one another in regard to the practical steps arising from these studies. Ask God to help you play your part in the community of God's people. Pray some of these big prayers that we have been thinking about for your own communities.

**MEMORY VERSES: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17**



# MEMORY VERSES

## **STUDY 1: 1 THESSALONIANS 1 – ENCOUNTERING THE GOOD NEWS**

<sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 1:3**

## **STUDY 2: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16 – A MODEL FOR MINISTRY**

<sup>7</sup> Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup> so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-8**

## **STUDY 3: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13 – A MINISTRY OF LOVE**

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-10**

## **STUDY 4: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-18 – LIVING OUT OUR HOPE**

<sup>1</sup> As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1**

## **STUDY 5: 1 THESSALONIANS 5 – READINESS AND COMMUNITY**

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

**1 Thessalonians 5:4-5**

## **STUDY 6: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-2:12 – PERSECUTION AND FALSE TEACHING**

<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

**2 Thessalonians 1:11**

## **STUDY 7: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-3:18 – IDLENESS AND STANDING FIRM**

<sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**