



Bible Teaching Resources
by Don Anderson Ministries
PO Box 6611 • Tyler, TX 75711-6611
903.939.1201 Phone • 903.939.1204 Fax
1.877.326.7729 Toll Free
www.BibleTeachingResources.org

A Practical Study of 2 THESSALONIANS: **Delighting the Heart of God**

“Learning to Bring Pleasure to God”

Key verse 3:16 — *“Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.
The Lord be with you all!”*

STUDY NUMBER ONE – BY GROWING IN FAITH AND LOVE – 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4

KEY VERSE 1:3

v. 1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

v. 2 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

v. 3 We ought always to be giving thanks to God for you, brethren, even as it is fitting, because your faith is growing wonderfully, and the love of each one of you all toward one another is growing ever greater;

v. 4 therefore, we ourselves are taking pride in you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you are enduring.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Who are the three men that are involved in the ministry there in Thessalonica, according to verse 1?

3. Where do “grace” and “peace” come from, according to verse 2?

4. What is it that characterizes a growing faith?

5. What else is “growing” in their lives besides faith, according to verse 3?

6. How does Paul feel about the Thessalonian saints, according to verse 4?

7. Why is he proud of them, according to verse 4?

8. What are the two things that we need when we face suffering and difficulties in our lives, according to verse 4?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The safest place to be in the time of trouble is in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON #2: Grace and peace have their source in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON #3: It is necessary for us to experience God's grace before we can know anything of His peace.

LESSON #4: Paul is a source of encouragement to the Thessalonians in their suffering by giving thanks to God for them.

LESSON #5: Faith and love grow best in affliction.

LESSON #6: The Lord provides grace to hope, to cope, and to hang onto the rope.

LESSON #7: Is your life characterized by perseverance in the midst of your trouble?

LESSON #8: Perseverance in the face of persecution is the mark of a genuine Christian.

LESSON #9: Are you delighting the heart of God by growing in faith and love?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO – BY UNDERSTANDING GOD'S JUSTICE
– 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-12

KEY VERSES 1:8, 9

v. 5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

v. 6 If indeed it is just in the sight of God to repay with affliction those who are afflicting you,

v. 7 and to give relief to you who are being afflicted along with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of His power

v. 8 in a fire of flame, allotting full justice to those who do not know God and who are not obeying the gospel of our Lord Jesus;

v. 9 and who will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

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v.10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all those who believed—because our testimony to you was believed.

v.11 To this end also we are praying always for you that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power;

v.12 in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Why are the Thessalonians suffering, according to verse 5?

3. Who is the one who is responsible for justice to be served in the face of “affliction,” according to verse 6?

4. Who is it that can give us “relief” in the midst of our sufferings, according to verse 7?

5. What is going to happen to those who do not know God, according to verses 8 & 9?

6. What two things are going to happen when He comes, according to verse 10?

7. What are Paul's two prayer requests, according to verse 11?

8. What is the goal in all this, according to verse 12?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Perseverance in the midst of problems proclaims the Christ.

LESSON #2: Perseverance is a mark of those who are going to be sharing the kingdom.

LESSON #3: Sufferings are designed to fit us for the kingdom.

LESSON #4: Trouble is a process with a purpose.

LESSON #5: Trials reveal the realities of my own life.

LESSON #6: There is a rest that comes when we realize God is going to make everything right in the end.

LESSON #7: Hell is a place of eternal ruination, not annihilation.

LESSON #8: Am I delighting the heart of God by understanding His justice?

LESSON #9: Those who do not know God and who are not obeying the Gospel are the ones who are going to be judged.

LESSON #10: Hell is located away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

LESSON #11: Believing is the single condition of salvation.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THREE – BY STAYING AWAY FROM ERROR – 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-5

KEY VERSE 2:2

v. 1 Now we are asking you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him,

v. 2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your calmness of mind or be disturbed either by a spirit or through a word or through a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

v. 3 Let no one in any way lead you astray, because that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

v. 4 who is opposing and exalting himself above all that is called god or that is an object of worship, so that he seats himself in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God.

v. 5 Are you not remembering that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Paul's main subject in these verses, according to verse 1?

3. What two things can happen to you when you are listening to error, according to verse 2?

4. In what three ways can error be brought to them, according to verse 2?

5. What is Paul's command in verse 3?

6. What two things indicate that the "day of the Lord" is here, according to verse 3?

7. What is the man of sin going to do when he comes, according to verse 4?

8. What question does Paul ask of them in verse 5?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Are you settled and at peace about the fact that the rapture of the church could happen today?

LESSON #2: Are you living this day of your life in view of the rapture of the church?

LESSON #3: We are delighting the heart of God when we are staying away from error.

LESSON #4: Like the Bereans, be “searching the Scriptures daily to see whether these things are so.”

LESSON #5: Let no one in any way lead you astray.

LESSON #6: We are indeed living in days of apostasy.

LESSON #7: This world leader who is controlled by Satan will be a “man of lawlessness,” a “son of destruction.”

LESSON #8: He will be opposing God and “exalting himself above all that is called God.”

LESSON #9: He will be “proclaiming that he himself is God.”

LESSON #10: Are you facing problems right now that could be solved by remembering some truth from the Scriptures that you have been taught previously?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – BY UNDERSTANDING GOD HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL **– 2 THESSALONIANS 2:6-12**

KEY VERSE 2:8

v. 6 And you are knowing that which is restraining him now, so that in his time he may be revealed.

v. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already working; only He who is now restraining [will do so] until He goes out from the midst.

v. 8 And then that lawless one shall be revealed whom the Lord (Jesus) shall slay with the breath of His mouth and shall render inoperative by the appearance of His presence;

v. 9 that is, the one whose presence is in accord with the working of Satan, with all power and attesting miracles and deceptive wonders,

v.10 and with every deception of wickedness for those who are perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved.

v.11 And for this reason God is sending upon them a working of error (a deluding influence) so that they might believe the lie,

v.12 in order that they all might be judged who did not believe the truth, but took delight in wickedness.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Who do you think it is that Paul is referring to as the restrainer of evil in these verses?

3. What does Paul say about the “mystery of lawlessness” in verse 7?

4. What will the Lord Jesus do to the lawless one when He is “revealed,” according to verse 8?

5. By whose workings is the lawless one brought upon the scene, according to verse 9?

6. In what four ways does Paul characterize the coming of the lawless one, according to verses 9 & 10?

7. Why are they “perishing,” according to verse 10?

8. What is “God sending upon them,” according to verse 11?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We can be “delighting the heart of God by understanding God has everything under control.”

LESSON #2: There are three signs that will indicate the coming of the day of the Lord:
1) a falling away; 2) the removal of the restrainer; and 3) the revelation of the man of lawlessness

LESSON #3: Since God is sovereign, He is operating on His own timetable.

LESSON #4: It is the Holy Spirit of God who is the Restrainer. “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”

LESSON #5: When He comes again, the Lord Jesus will destroy the works of the devil.

LESSON #6: This lawless one will come with the working of Satan, with all power and attesting miracles and deceptive wonders, and with every deception of wickedness.

LESSON #7: Those who are judged at the coming of the Lord Jesus are those who did not love the truth, and they did not believe the truth.

LESSON #8: They are judged because they believed the lie, and they took delight in wickedness.

LESSON #9: There comes a time when the Lord Jesus finally says, “Go ahead and believe what you want and do what you want to.”

LESSON #10: All will be judged who did not believe the truth.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – BY UNDERSTANDING GOD IS SOVEREIGN
– 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-15

KEY VERSE 2:13

v.13 But we should always be giving thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and faith in the truth.

v.14 And it was for this He called you through our gospel, to the gaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

v.15 So then, brethren, be standing firm and be holding fast to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word [of mouth] or by letter from us.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does Paul characterize the Thessalonian believers in verse 13?

3. What key phrase indicates God's sovereignty in verse 13?

4. What two-fold purpose of God is revealed in His choosing of them, according to verse 13?

5. The focus is on God choosing them in verse 13. What is the focus in verse 14?

6. Why did He call them, according to verse 14?

7. What two things does Paul command them to do in verse 15?

8. In what two ways were these Thessalonian believers taught, according to verse 15?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We have an obligation to be giving thanks for our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

LESSON #2: We know we are beloved by the Lord because He chose us from the beginning.

LESSON #3: God chose us for Himself before the foundation of the world.

LESSON #4: God's side is salvation and sanctification of the Spirit and man's side is faith in the truth.

LESSON #5: God not only chose us but He calls us through the proclamation of the gospel.

LESSON #6: He chose us in the past, He is calling us in the present, and He is sharing glory with us in the future.

LESSON #7: In view of His choice and His calling we are to be doing two things:

- 1) be standing firm; and 2) be holding fast to the traditions which you were taught.

LESSON #8: The traditions that Paul is referring to are traditions which were taught by word of mouth or by letter from us.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX – BY UNDERSTANDING GOD LOVES FOR US TO PRAY
– 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-3:2

KEY VERSES 2:16, 17

v.16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and who gave us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace,
v.17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.
3:v. 1 Finally, brethren, be praying for us in order that the word of the Lord may be spreading rapidly and be glorified, even as it is doing also with you;
v. 2 and that we may be delivered from the perverted and evil men; for not all are having the faith.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:2 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What have the “Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father” done for us, according to verse 16?

3. What two things have they given us, according to verse 16?

4. What two things does Paul pray for in verse 17?

5. In what two ways will God's comfort and strength manifest itself in the heart of the Thessalonians, according to verse 17?

6. What does Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray for them in verses 1 & 2?

7. Suggest ways that the Word of God can be glorified in and through us.

8. What does Paul ask to be "delivered from," according to verse 2?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Our Heavenly Father has not only chosen us and called us, but He has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope.

LESSON #2: Are you "delighting the heart of God" by your practice of prayer?

LESSON #3: God delights to give us, as an act of grace, eternal encouragement and good hope.

LESSON #4: God is in the business of comforting and strengthening our hearts when we come to Him in prayer.

LESSON #5: In God's sight our works are more important than our words in our witness.

LESSON #6: The exposition of the Scriptures must be accompanied by the prayers of the saints to be effective.

LESSON #7: Paul's great desire was that the Word would be spreading rapidly and be glorified in changed lives.

LESSON #8: There are perverted and evil men who will stand against the proclamation of the Gospel.

LESSON #9: Many are having faith but not all are having the faith, that is, saving faith.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – BY UNDERSTANDING GOD GLORIES IN THE OBEDIENT HEART **– 2 THESSALONIANS 3:3-12**

KEY VERSE 3:4

v. 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

v. 4 Now we have come to a settled persuasion in the Lord concerning you, that the things which we are commanding you are also doing and will continue to be doing.

v. 5 And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness (perseverance) of Christ.

v. 6 Now we are commanding you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who is walking around undisciplined and not according to the tradition which they received from us.

v. 7 For you yourselves are knowing how you ought to be imitating us; because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

v. 8 nor did we eat bread from anyone without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you;

v. 9 not because we are not having the right to this, but in order that we might offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you might be imitating us.

v.10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not desiring to be working, neither let him be eating.

v.11 For we are hearing that certain ones among you are walking around undisciplined, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

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v.12 Now such persons we are commanding and exhorting in the Lord Jesus Christ in order that with quietness they be working and eating their own bread.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How is the Lord characterized, according to verse 3?

3. What two things will He do for them, according to verse 3?

4. Describe how Paul feels about the Thessalonians and their response to what he is asking them to do, according to verse 4.

5. In what two ways does Paul wish the Lord to direct the hearts of the Thessalonian believers, according to verse 5?

6. What does Paul command them to do, according to verse 6?

7. Describe Paul's philosophy of ministry, according to verse 9.

8. How are the “undisciplined” commanded to be conducting themselves, according to verse 12?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself
(2 Timothy 2:13).

LESSON #2: The Lord will strengthen and protect us from the evil one if we will allow Him to do so.

LESSON #3: Are you “delighting the heart of God by understanding God glories in the obedient heart”?

LESSON #4: Do love for God on the vertical and perseverance on the horizontal characterize your life at this time?

LESSON #5: Is your life characterized by discipline, or lack of discipline?

LESSON #6: Paul modeled his message before the recipients of his ministry.

LESSON #7: Paul worked night and day so that he could give himself in ministry without cost.

LESSON #8: One of the key principles in the passage is, “If anyone is not desiring to be working, neither let him be eating.”

LESSON #9: Idle hands are the devil’s workshop.

LESSON #10: Paul commands the busybodies to work with quietness and eat their own bread.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT – BY UNDERSTANDING GOD IS THRILLED WHEN WE PERSEVERE – 2 THESSALONIANS 3:13-18

KEY VERSE 3:13

- v.13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.
- v.14 And if anyone is not obeying our word through this letter, be taking special notice of that man (be putting a tag on that man) and do not be associating with him, in order that he may be put to shame.
- v.15 And yet do not be regarding him as an enemy, but keep admonishing him as a brother.
- v.16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all!
- v.17 The greeting by my hand, the hand of Paul, which is the distinguishing mark in every letter: in this manner I am writing.
- v.18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Paul tell them not to do in verse 13?

3. What are the Thessalonians supposed to do with those who refuse to obey Paul's words through this letter, according to verse 14?

4. Why are they not to be associating with the disobedient, according to verse 14?

5. How does Paul warn them in verse 15?

6. How will the Lord manifest Himself to us when we are delighting His heart, according to verse 16?

7. What is the distinguishing mark of Paul's letters, according to verse 17?

8. What is his final wish for them, according to verse 18?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The apostle commands us not to grow weary of doing good.

LESSON #2: We can be “strengthened with all might according to His glorious power” (Colossians 1:11).

LESSON #3: Are we “delighting the heart of God by understanding God is thrilled when we persevere”?

LESSON #4: Though others around us quit and drop out of the race, we must keep on keeping on.

LESSON #5: Paul says the Thessalonian Christians are to take note of those who are not obeying and not associate with them.

LESSON #6: The separation from the saints is designed to bring them to shame and to repentance.

LESSON #7: The erring brother is not to be treated as an enemy but as a brother.

LESSON #8: It is the Lord of peace who Himself gives us peace.

LESSON #9: Paul's prayer for the Thessalonian saints is that they might experience the Lord's peace and the Lord's presence.

LESSON #10: There are three wonderful gifts here in these final verses: 1) peace; 2) presence; and 3) grace.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
