

Lesson 16 I & II Thessalonians

Intro – What do you know about Jesus' return to earth/ 2nd Coming/The Day of the Lord?

Author – Paul (about 51 - 52 A.D. written in Corinth)

Background of beginnings in Jewish synagogue. (Acts 17:1-9 see pg2 Background verses)

Thessalonica – bustling seaport city at the head of the Thermaic Gulf. Population 200,000 = largest city in the Roman province of Macedonia. (FYI for comparison: The City of Houston's population is 2,257,412. The City of Sugar Land is estimated in 2010 at 84,511. Katy about 12,000.)

Second missionary journey (see map)

Paul, Timothy, and Silas preached in the Thessalonian synagogue (Jewish church) over 3 Sabbaths.

The new Thessalonian Church was largely made up of Gentiles (Greeks & leading women) & included some Jews.

Purpose –

1. to encourage new converts in their trials (some didn't expect persecution to last so long – Paul explains that persecution is normal for Christians)
2. to give instruction concerning godly living (4:1-8) (they were originally pagan)
3. to urge some not to neglect daily work (4:11-12) (some Christians were depending on wealthier Christians to provide for them rather than earning their own living)
4. to give assurance concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns (4:13, 15) or correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lord's return (some thought that those who died would miss out on the 2nd Coming of Christ)

Themes –

Eschatology (doctrine of last things/end times/Christ' 2nd Coming) predominant

1 Thessalonians stresses the unexpectedness of that day's arrival "like a thief in the night."

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (English Standard Version)

²For you yourselves are fully aware that ^(A) the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

2 Thessalonians insists that certain events must precede the day of the Lord (see Ch 2).

Joy, especially in suffering is a mark of the Christian (1:6, 5:16)

Acts 17 (English Standard Version)

Paul and Silas in Thessalonica

¹Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to^(A) Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²And Paul went in, ^(B) as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them^(C) from the Scriptures, ³^(D) explaining and proving that it was necessary for^(E) the Christ to suffer and^(F) to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴And^(G) some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did^(H) a great many of the devout^(I) Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵^(J) But the Jews^(K) were jealous, and taking^(L) some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason (Paul's host), seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶And when they could not find them,^(M) they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against^(N) the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is^(O) another king, Jesus." ⁸And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹And when they had taken money as security (posted bail) from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

Paul and Silas in Berea

¹⁰^(P) The brothers^(a) immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they^(Q) went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, ^(R) examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹²^(S) Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek^(T) women of high standing as well as men. ¹³But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too,^(U) agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴Then the brothers^(V) immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and^(W) Timothy remained there. ¹⁵^(X) Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as^(Y) Athens, and after receiving a command^(Z) for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

Handout Outlines

1 Thessalonians

- 1:1 Salutation
- 1:2-10 Thanksgiving for their faith
- 2:1-16 Paul's defense of the apostle's actions & faith
- 2:17-3:10 Events since Paul left Paul left Thessalonica
- 3:11-13 Prayer
- 4:1-12 Instruction & exhortation to holy living and brotherly love
- 4:13-5:11 Concerning the 2nd Coming of Christ
- 5:12-22 General exhortations on community conduct
- 5:23-28 Prayer, assurance, & conclusion

2 Thessalonians

- 1:1-2 Opening
- 1:3-12 Thanksgiving for their faith, love, perseverance & encouragement
- 2:1-12 Events to precede the 2nd Coming of Christ
- 2:13-3:5 Further thanksgiving & encouragement
- 3:6-15 Command to discipline the disorderly & lazy
- 3:16-18 Prayer, final greeting & conclusion

Practical Applications

Lesson 16 I & II Thessalonians Fill in sheet

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