

Study Buddies

Quick Bible Reference Guides

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS: Being Faithful, Not Lazy

Note: This resource was prepared based on the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. It is always good to use more than one Bible version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the languages of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Overview

Paul founded the church in Thessalonica, and these letters are considered to be some of his more intimate addresses. Many of the members had stopped working because they thought that Jesus was coming in a matter of days. Others were worried about family members who had already died. Paul wrote to reassure the Church about Christ's return and let them know that he would be coming back for the faithful. The second letter emphasizes that he had not come yet.

Key Points and Verses

Read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that can be encapsulated from the text.

- 1 Thess 1.4-9 A faith example
- 1 Thess 2.2-8 Spreading the Word
- 1 Thess 4.1-12 Wholesome living
- 1 Thess 4.13-5.9 The return of Jesus Christ
- 2 Thess 1.3-12 Worthy of being God's people
- 2 Thess 2.1-12 Events leading to Jesus' return
- 2 Thess 2.13-17; 3.6-15 Be faithful, not lazy

Study Questions

1. How had the Thessalonians been an example for other Christians in the area around them? (1.7-9). How can Christians today be an example for others?
2. In 2.1-12 Paul describes his work in Thessalonica. What does he say was his motivation for preaching? What does he imply would be wrong motives for preaching the good news?
3. Paul sent his friend Timothy to remind the Thessalonians of the message Paul had first taught them (3.1-6). Why is it important for Christians to be reminded often about the message about Christ? Have you had a good teacher tell you the message about Christ? If so, describe this person and how he or she taught this message.
4. How does Paul suggest the Thessalonian Christians prepare for the Lord's return? (5.1-11). How does he say they should live in the meantime? (5.12-22). Which of Paul's suggestions do you find most challenging right now? What do you need to change in order to improve in this area?
5. Why does the author of 2 Thessalonians so often mention that he has been praying for those people he is writing to? (1.2; 2.17; 3.16-18). What is the value of prayer? Who do you pray for? What do you ask God to give them or do for them?
6. What does the author mean by his statement that the "Lord Jesus will punish anyone who doesn't know God and won't obey his message" (1.8)? What does it mean to know God? What does it mean to obey God's message?

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS *(Continued)*:

7. What false teaching was being spread in the Thessalonian church? (2.1,2). Why does the author think this teaching is dangerous or harmful?
8. What advice does the author have for the Thessalonian Christians as they wait for Christ's return? (3.6-13). What are some of the hazards of laziness? What can you do to avoid becoming "tired of doing right?"

Something to Think About

Re-read 2 Thessalonians 2.13-17. What does this passage teach about God's love, faithfulness, hope, and the importance of doing and saying the right thing? When in your life have you experienced God's kindness? (2.16). How did this change the way you thought or the way you behaved toward others?

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Dear Group Leader:

If you're looking for a straightforward resource to enhance study time with your group, you have come to the right place. Study Buddies give a brief synopsis of the Bible book you wish to study and highlight key points and verses throughout the text. There are also thought-provoking questions included to get the discussion going.

These study sheets were prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. But when studying, it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. We encourage this practice because it will enable you and your companions to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Study Buddies can be used at church, in the home, or in the workplace (where permitted) **free of charge**. Here are a few ways for you to get the most out of them:

- Use in church classroom settings for both adult and youth groups. Add a little flavor by touching upon topics that are relevant to your community. Are you in an urban setting? Rural? Suburban? How does your community compare to the communities and people of the Bible? Find ties that will make the lessons personal and relevant to the specific circumstances that you are facing.
- Use with people who don't know much about the Bible. Maybe they are new Christians or people who are uncertain about what the Bible is about. These sheets can act as a primer to basic Bible knowledge about the contents of each book and why it was written.
- Use during family time with your teens and pre-teens as a reinforcement to the lessons learned in church. While your son or daughter may already think that they're adults, these study sheets can help you help them transition into adulthood with grace and compassion.
- Finally, use with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and loved ones who have expressed an interest in the Bible. Form a small in home group and increase your awareness of what the Scriptures are saying. Try to develop bonds that will help each of you remain faithful to God and his Word.

We hope that you'll find these study sheets to be an excellent starting point for your lessons.

Sincerely,
American Bible Society