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# Study Guide to Philippians and First and Second Thessalonians

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## **Study Guide to Philippians and First and Second Thessalonians To the Teacher**

**Study Guide to Philippians and First and Second Thessalonians** is a Bible study guide for teenagers and adults to be used in Bible classes in local congregations. This workbook is not intended to replace the word of God as the class text. Nor is it a commentary. Rather, it consists of questions within the framework of an analytical outline designed to help the class study properly, so each can discover for himself what the Bible teaches.

My experience is that adult and teenage classes generally do not like graded lessons. Thus, this book has no grading system.

However, these same classes have a tendency to “bog down” or stray from the lesson unless some time goals are established and followed. Thus, this study guide is designed to lead the student through the books of Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Second Thessalonians in thirteen lessons.

Each lesson starts with a memory verse. I believe committing the word of God to memory is an important, often neglected aspect of the lives of Christians.

The goals of this course are to lead the student to demonstrate a knowledge of (1) the background of the books of Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Second Thessalonians, (2) the theme of each book, (3) a simple outline of their contents, (4) places mentioned, and (5) people mentioned, to show understanding of (1) key words, (2) passages studied, and (3) great themes of Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Second Thessalonians, and to demonstrate the ability to apply the passages to their own lives and to refute false doctrines based on misunderstandings of passages.

To accomplish these goals, the workbook contains several types of questions: terms to define, places to locate, people to identify, discussion questions, special reports, panel discussion, and personal evaluation as well as reviews. Each question has a purpose. There are no pointless, filler questions, trick questions, or true-false questions.

Although a particular word may appear several times in the books of Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Second Thessalonians, it will be given as a term to define only once, unless it is later translated from a different Greek word, used in a different sense, or has a special importance in a later context. The same principle is true of places to locate and people to identify. These questions are designed to help the student understand the language of the text and to place the events in their historical and geographical settings.

There is a glossary in the back of the book which defines the terms and identifies the people and a map on which places may be located.

Each class should end with a review orally in class of the theme of each chapter studied to that point. Beginning with lesson two, each class should start with quotation together of the memory verse and the oral review.

Because the lessons call for a fast overview of Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Second Thessalonians, it is crucial that each student study his lesson and complete the questions outside class. It is best in class to concentrate on the discussion questions and to only spend time on definition, identification, and location questions with which some student might have trouble.

The student should first read the entire text covered by the lesson and then read each passage again separately as he comes to it in the analytical outline. Finally, in order to answer the discussion questions, every student must read the verse or verses that answer each question. If the student will follow the suggested steps in the lesson, he will read each verse of the lesson three times: beginning with the longest for overall grasp, then shorter reading for outline, and finally shortest reading for analysis.

The questions are based on the **New King James Version** of the Bible.

No work book can even begin to replace a competent teacher, with a good working knowledge of the Scriptures, an unswerving love of and loyalty to truth, a deep faith in God and His word, a pure life, an humble opinion of himself, an understanding of and love for his students, and the ability to communicate.

I hope and pray this volume is useful to you in learning and teaching more about the will of God and its application to us. May it deepen your faith and enliven your interest for deeper study and more diligent service to the Lord. - The Author

### **Course Plan**

We will study the books of Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Second Thessalonians in thirteen lessons.

### **Course Plan**

- Lesson One: Introduction to Philippians - Rejoice in the Lord
- Lesson Two: To Live Is Christ - Philippians chapter one
- Lesson Three: The Mind of Christ - Philippians chapter two
- Lesson Four: I Count All Things Loss - Philippians chapter three
- Lesson Five: Be Anxious for Nothing - Philippians chapter four
- Lesson Six: Introduction to First Thessalonians (The Christian's Hope in a Wicked World) and chapter one (The State of the Church)
- Lesson Seven: The Preacher, His Work, and His Audience - First Thessalonians 2:1-16
- Lesson Eight: Paul's Concern and Prayer for Them - First Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:13
- Lesson Nine: Sanctification and the State of the Righteous Dead - First Thessalonians chapter four
- Lesson Ten: Watch and Be Sober - First Thessalonians chapter five
- Lesson Eleven: Introduction to Second Thessalonians and Comfort in Tribulation - Second Thessalonians chapter one
- Lesson Twelve: The Coming of the Lord - Second Thessalonians chapter two
- Lesson Thirteen: Exhortations - Withdrawal from the Disorderly - Second Thessalonians chapter three

# **Lesson One**

## **Introduction to Philippians**

### **Memory Verse: Philippians 4:4-7**

#### **Author**

The apostle Paul along with the evangelist Timothy wrote Philippians (1:1). Apparently Epaphroditus bore the letter to Philippi. He had been Philippi's unselfish messenger to minister to Paul, but fell gravely ill at Rome, and Paul sent him back to Philippi (2:25-30; 4:18).

#### **Where Written**

Paul was in prison in Rome when he sent the letter (1:7,12-14; 4:22).

#### **When Written**

At the time Paul wrote, he had been in prison long enough that his situation had made an impact on the brethren (1:12-14), and he had converted some while in prison, even from among the household of Caesar (4:22). He expected to be released before long (2:23-24). Probably the apostle sent this letter toward the end of his first imprisonment in Rome, ca. A.D. 62.

#### **To Whom Written**

Paul addressed Philippians to "all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." (1:1) This is a capsule summary of the scriptural organization of a local church of Christ.

#### **The City of Philippi**

The city of Philippi was located in the Roman province of Macedonia, on the northern border of Achaia (Greece) and the southeastern corner of Europe. It originally belonged to Thrace but was captured by Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, in 358 BC and named for him.

Philippi was located on a strategic spot on the Egnatian Road and, through its seaport of Neapolis, linked Southeastern Europe with Asia. The Romans, recognizing its military importance, made it a Roman colony (Acts 16:12). Thus it became a military city rather than a commercial one. As a result its citizens had the coveted Roman citizenship, and its Jewish population was too small to build a synagogue (Acts 16:13). In fact, the Jews were apparently held in contempt here (Acts 16:20). It was a leading city of Macedonia (Acts 16:12).

#### **The Church in Philippi**

On the apostle Paul's second evangelistic journey, he received in a vision at Troas the "Macedonian Call" - "'Come over to Macedonia and help us'" (Acts 16:6-11). Paul and his company immediately went to Philippi, where on a Sabbath Paul preached the first recorded

gospel sermon on the European continent to a group of Jewish business women gathered for prayer by the river (Acts 16:12-13).

These same women became the first Christians in Europe and the original members of the church in Philippi (Acts 16:14-15). Other reported converts were pagan (Acts 16:16-34).

The church began in the midst of persecution (Acts 16:16-25). Even as Paul wrote to them, they were in tribulation and poverty (1:28-30; 2 Corinthians 8:1-2).

After Paul left, Luke remained behind at Philippi (Acts 16:10,40 - “we,” “they”) until Paul began his return to Jerusalem on his third journey (Acts 20:5-6). Silas and Timothy also labored in Philippi (Acts 18:5). Paul was through Philippi twice on his third journey (Acts 20:1-2,5-6; 2 Corinthians 2:13).

Despite their suffering and poverty, the Philippians voluntarily, lovingly assisted Paul from the time they were converted to Christ (Acts 16:15,33-34) and were a continuing source of help to him afterward (1:3-5; 4:15-16). He could not remember them without thanking God with joy for them, and they were the constant subject of his prayers (1:3-4). They were the church closest to the great apostle’s heart (4:1). Unlike other churches, Paul directed no rebukes to Philippi, only a gentle reminder to two women to get along (4:2). Philippians is truly Paul’s “love letter” to the saints in Philippi.

### Theme

The theme of Philippians is "**Rejoice in the Lord.**" (4:4) In this epistle Paul uses the word “rejoice” twelve times (1:18 [2], 26; 2:16,17, 18, 28; 3:1,3; 4:4 [2],10), “joy” four (1:4,25; 2:2; 4:1), “glad” (verb form of “joy”) two (2:17-18), “gladness” (same Greek word as “joy”) one (2:29), “thank” one (1:3), “thanksgiving” one (4:6 ) and “peace” three times (1:2; 4:7,9). In this short letter the apostle reveals how we can have joy, an inward sense of well being, and peace, a mind free from turmoil and trouble, in all life’s situations.

### Key

The key to Philippians is "**Meditate on These Things**" (4:8). Peace and joy are the results, not of outward circumstances, but of the condition of the heart. The author uses the term “mind” nine times (1:27; 2:2,3,5; 3:15,16,19; 4:2,7), “heart” twice (1:7; 4:7 ), “think” twice (1:7; 3:4), “spirit” (i.e., human spirit) once (1:27), “meditate” (consider, take into account, weigh) once (4:8), and “remembrance” once (1:3). Each chapter of Philippians gives a key to joy and peace.

### Outline

- I. Introduction - 1:1-11
  - A. Salutation - 1:1-2
  - B. Thanksgiving - 1:3-8

- 1. for fellowship with them - 1:3-5
- 2. for confidence in them - 1:6-8
- II. Joy in Trouble (Key: “To Live Is Christ,” i.e., The Single Mind) - 1:12-30
  - A. Chains (imprisonment) - 1:12-14
  - B. Critics (false brethren) - 1:15-18
  - C. Crisis (facing death) - 1:19-26
  - E. Example (following Paul) - 1:27-30
- III. Joy when Unpopular (Key: “The Mind of Christ,” i.e., The Mind of Humility) - 2:1-30
  - A. Christ Our Example - 2:1-16
    - 1. in service to men - 2:1-4
    - 2. humility the key - 2:5-7
    - 3. in obedience to God - 2:8
    - 4. His reward - 2:9-11
  - B. Exhortation to Obedience - 2:12-16
  - C. The Example of Paul - 2:17-18
  - D. The Example of Timothy - 2:19-23
  - E. The Example of Epaphroditus - 2:24-30
- IV. Joy Regardless of Things (Key: The Spiritual Mind) - 3:1-21
  - A. Paul’s Past (“I Count”: Paul the Accountant) - 3:1-11
  - B. Paul’s Present (“I Press”: Paul the Athlete) - 3:12-17
  - C. Paul’s Future (“I Walk: Paul the Citizen) - 3:18-21
- V. Joy in All Life’s Situations (Key: “Be Anxious for Nothing,” i.e., The Secure Mind) - 4:1-19
  - A. Be Right with the Lord - 4:1-4
  - B. Be Right with Others - 4:5
  - C. Pray - 4:6-7
  - D. Think Right - 4:8
  - E. Be Content - 4:9-19
- VI. Conclusion - 4:20-23
  - A. Praise - 4:20
  - B. Greetings - 4:21-22
  - C. Blessing - 4:23

### **Conclusion**

Is your life one of “joy inexpressible” (1 Peter 1:8) and “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7)? Are you instead depressed, worried, and miserable? The Lord wants to replace the despondency and anxiety of our lives with joy and peace. Will you study with me, examine your own heart and life in the light of what you learn, and incorporate the changes you need to make into your mind and life? You too may “**Rejoice in the Lord always.**”

## Questions

### A. Places to Locate (Map of Roman Empire in Age of Augustus)

1. Philippi

2. Rome

### B. Discussion Questions

1. Who wrote Philippians?

2. Where was it written?

3. When was it written?

4. To whom was the letter addressed?

5. Tell about the city of Philippi.

6. How did the church in Philippi begin?

7. Relate the history of the congregation.

8. What was their relationship to Paul?

9. What is the theme of Philippians?

10. Where is this theme stated?

11. What is the key to peace and joy?

12. Where is this key stated?

13. Make a four part outline of Philippians by stating the theme of each chapter.



**Lesson Two**  
**To Live Is Christ**  
**Memory Verse: Philippians 1:21**

I. Review

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Who wrote Philippians?            | 5. What is the theme of Philippians? |
| 2. Where was it written?             | 6. Where is this theme stated?       |
| 3. When was it written?              | 7. What is the key to peace and joy? |
| 4. To whom was the letter addressed? | 8. Where is this key stated?         |

II. Reading Assignment: Philippians 1:1-30

III. Introduction

Please read Philippians 1:1-11.

A. Terms to Define

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. saints     | 9. gospel         |
| 2. bishops    | 10. heart         |
| 3. deacons    | 11. confirmation  |
| 4. Grace      | 12. pray          |
| 5. peace      | 13. love          |
| 6. prayer     | 14. discernment   |
| 7. joy        | 15. righteousness |
| 8. fellowship |                   |

B. Person to Identify

Timothy

C. Discussion Questions

1. How did Paul greet the Christians in Philippi? (Verses 1-2)
2. Why was he always thankful for them? (Verses 3-5)
3. What confidence did he have concerning them? (Verse 6)
4. Why did he have this confidence? (Verses 7-8)

5. What was his prayer for them? (Verses 9-11)

C. Thought Questions

1. What is the divinely authorized organization of a local church of Christ?
2. How are Paul and Philippi examples for us of the right relationship between an evangelist and a congregation?

IV. Chains (Imprisonment)

Please read Philippians 1:12-14.

A. Term to Define

palace

B. Discussion Question

How had Paul's imprisonment turned out to be a blessing?

C. Thought Questions

1. May our afflictions turn out to be what is best?
2. How can this bring us joy and peace? (Do we view the Lord through our circumstances, or do we view our circumstances through the Lord?)

V. Critics (False Brethren)

Please read Philippians 1:15-18.

A. Terms to Define

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. preach           | 5. affliction |
| 2. envy             | 6. appointed  |
| 3. strife           | 7. rejoice    |
| 4. selfish ambition |               |

B. Discussion Questions

1. With what varying motives do some preach Christ? (Verses 15-17)
2. What was Paul's obligation toward the gospel? (Verse 17; cf. 1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3)
3. What was his attitude toward the varying reasons some preached Christ? (Verse 18)

C. Thought Question

Can we have joy and peace when other Christians misrepresent us and try to make our lives difficult? (Are we willing to sacrifice ourselves for Christ and the gospel?)

## VI. Crisis

Please read Philippians 1:19-26.

### A. Terms to Define

1. Spirit
2. hope
3. faith

### B. Discussion Questions

1. What gain did Paul see in his situation? (Verse 19)
2. How? (Verses 19-20)
3. What dilemma did Paul face between desire and duty? (Verses 22-24)
4. What would Paul choose? (Verse 25)
5. Why? (Verses 25-26)

### C. Thought Questions

1. How can we have joy and peace in the face of death? (Verse 21; Do we have the single mind?)
2. Did Paul contemplate suicide?

## VII. Example (Following Paul)

Please read Philippians 1:27-30.

### A. Terms to Define

1. stand fast
2. spirit
3. the faith
4. perdition
5. conflict

### B. Discussion Questions

1. What should our manner of life be? (Verse 27)
2. What does our courage in the face of danger show about our enemies? (Verse 28)
3. What does it signify for us? (Ibid)
4. What privileges had the Christians in Philippi been granted? (Verse 29)

5. Who was their example in this regard? (Verse 30)

C. Thought Question

Why is it a privilege to suffer for Christ?

D. Special Report

“For To Me to Live Is Christ”

VIII. Summary

A. Theme: Peace and Joy in Trouble

B. Key: To Me to Live Is Christ (The Single Mind)

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

*(5) Have the same attitude among yourselves that was also in the Messiah Jesus:*

*(6) In God's own form existed he, and shared with God equality, deemed nothing needed grasping.*

*(7) Instead, poured out in emptiness, a servant's form did he possess, a mortal man becoming. In human form he chose to be,*

*(8) and lived in all humility, death on a cross obeying.*

*(9) Now lifted up by God to heaven, a name above all others given, this matchless name possessing.*

*(10) And so, when Jesus' name is called, the knees of everyone should fall wherever they're residing.*

*(11) Then every tongue in one accord, will say that Jesus the Messiah is Lord, while God the Father praising.*

**(International Standard Version)**

**Lesson Three**  
**The Mind of Christ**  
**Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3**

I. Review

1. Who wrote Philippians?
2. Where was it written?
3. When was it written?
4. To whom was the letter addressed?
5. What is the theme of Philippians?
6. Where is this theme stated?
7. Quote this verse.
8. What is the key to peace and joy?
9. Where is this key stated?
10. Quote this verse.
11. What is the theme of Philippians one?
12. What is the key to peace and joy in trouble?
13. Where is this key stated?
14. Quote this verse.

II. Reading Assignment: Philippians 2:1-30

III. Christ Our Example

Please read Philippians 2:1-11.

A. Terms to Define

1. consolation
2. affection
3. mercy
4. like-minded
5. one accord
6. conceit
7. lowliness of mind
8. form
9. made Himself of no reputation
10. humbled
11. confess
12. Lord

B. Discussion Questions

1. What tender blessings has the Father given us in Christ? (Verse 1)
2. What attitudes should we therefore have toward each other? (Verse 2)
3. What motives should determine our actions toward one another? (Verses 3-4)
4. How is Christ our ultimate example in this regard? (Verses 5-8)
5. How did God reward the humility of Jesus? (Verses 9-11)

C. Thought Questions

1. How will God reward us if we humble ourselves?
2. Should we confess Christ?
3. What should we confess?

D. Special Report

The Nature of Jesus Christ

IV. Exhortation to Obedience

Please read Philippians 2:12-16.

A. Terms to Define

1. crooked
2. perverse

B. Discussion Questions

1. How should we behave toward God? (Verse 12)
2. For what goal? (Ibid)
3. With what attitude? (Ibid)
4. Where do we receive the strength to do this? (Verses 13,15)
5. What should never be a part of our lives? (Verse 14)
6. What will be the result in our relationship to God? (Verse 15)
7. What about toward the people of the world? (Ibid; cf. Deuteronomy 32:5)
8. What will be the result? (Verse 16)

V. The Example of Paul

Please read Philippians 2:17-18

A. Term to Define

service

B. Discussion Questions

1. What would cause Paul to rejoice? (Verse 17)
2. In what did he want the brethren in Philippi to rejoice? (Verse 18)

VI. The Example of Timothy

Please read Philippians 2:19-23.

A. Term to Define

trust

## B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul plan to send Timothy to them? (Verses 19,23)
2. How did Timothy's attitude toward them differ from others? (Verses 20-21)
3. What was his relationship to Paul? (Verse 22)

## VII. The Example of Epaphroditus

Please read Philippians 2:24-30.

### A. Terms to Define

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. trust      | 4. distressed |
| 2. messenger  | 5. esteem     |
| 3. ministered |               |

### B. Person to Identify

Epaphroditus

### C. Discussion Questions

1. What did Paul have confidence he would do? (Verse 24)
2. In the meantime what did he do? (Verse 25)
3. What was the relationship of Epaphroditus to Paul? (Ibid)
4. What was his relationship to the church at Philippi? (Ibid; Philippians 4:18)
5. What was Epaphroditus' attitude toward the Christians in Philippi? (Verse 26)
6. Why did Paul send Epaphroditus to them? (Verses 27-28)
7. How should we regard men like Epaphroditus? (Verse 29)
8. Why? (Verse 30)

### C. Special Report

How are Christ, Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus examples of humility?

## VIII. Summary

A Theme: Joy When Unpopular

B. Key: The Mind of Christ (Humility)

**Lesson Four**  
**I Count All Things Loss**  
**Memory Verse: Philippians 3:7**

I. Review

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Who wrote Philippians?            | 10. Quote this verse.                            |
| 2. Where was it written?             | 11. What is the theme of Philippians one?        |
| 3. When was it written?              | 12. What is the key to peace and joy in trouble? |
| 4. To whom was the letter addressed? | 13. Where is this key stated?                    |
| 5. What is the theme of Philippians? | 14. Quote this verse.                            |
| 6. Where is this theme stated?       | 15. What is the theme of Philippians two?        |
| 7. Quote this verse.                 | 16. What is the key?                             |
| 8. What is the key to peace and joy? | 17. Where is the key stated?                     |
| 9. Where is this key stated?         | 18. Quote this verse.                            |

II. Reading Assignment: Philippians 3:1-21

III. Paul's Past ("I Count": Paul the Accountant)

Please read Philippians 3:1-11.

A. Terms to Define

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. tedious    | 5. the law     |
| 2. worship    | 6. zeal        |
| 3. rejoice    | 7. persecuting |
| 4. confidence | 8. church      |

B. Peoples to Identify

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Israel            | 3. Hebrew   |
| 2. tribe of Benjamin | 4. Pharisee |

C. Discussion Questions

- Why did Paul write to them as he did? (Verse 1)
- About what people did he warn them? (Verse 2)
- Who are the true circumcision? (Verse 3)
- Why? (Ibid)
- On what fleshly grounds could Paul have boasted? (Verses 4-6)

Credit	Debit
<b>Christ</b> (verses 3,7-8)	<b>flesh</b> (verses 3-8)
<b>faith in Christ</b> (verse 9)	<b>the law</b> (verse 9)



6. What did these things mean to Paul? (Verses 7-8)
7. Why? (Verses 8-11)

**D. Special Report**

1. What is righteousness from the law?
2. What is righteousness through faith in Christ?

**IV. Paul’s Present (“I Press”: Paul the Athlete)**

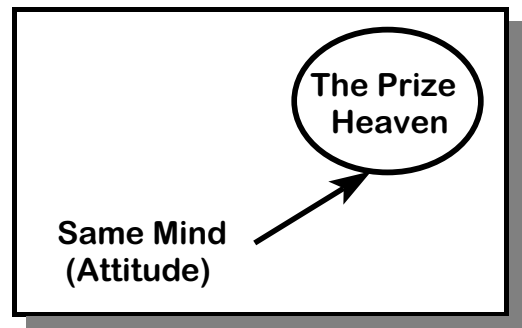
Please read Philippians 3:12-17.

**A. Terms to Define**

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. perfected   | 4. reveal               |
| 2. apprehended | 5. following my example |
| 3. mature      | 6. pattern              |

**B. Discussion Questions**

1. Had Paul reached his goal as a Christian? (Verses 12-13)
2. What did he, therefore, do? (Verses 13-14)
3. What did he exhort other Christians to do? (Verses 15-17)



**C. Thought Question**

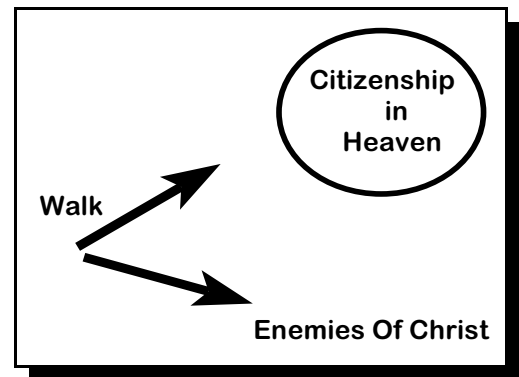
What are the value and use of New Testament examples?

**V. Paul’s Future (“I Walk”: Paul the Citizen)**

Please read Philippians 3:18-21.

**Discussion Questions**

1. How do enemies of Christ live? (Verses 18-19)
2. What principle must guide our lives and affections? (Verses 20-21)



**VI. Summary**

- A. Theme: Joy Regardless of Things
- B. Key: Forgetting Those Things Which Are Behind (The Spiritual Mind)

**Lesson Five**  
**Be Anxious for Nothing**  
**Memory Verse: Philippians 4:8**

I. Review

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Who wrote Philippians?                 | 12. What is the key to peace and joy in trouble? |
| 2. Where was it written?                  | 13. Where is this key stated?                    |
| 3. When was it written?                   | 14. Quote this verse.                            |
| 4. To whom was the letter addressed?      | 15. What is the theme of Philippians two?        |
| 5. What is the theme of Philippians?      | 16. What is the key?                             |
| 6. Where is this theme stated?            | 17. Where is the key stated?                     |
| 7. Quote this verse.                      | 18. Quote this verse.                            |
| 8. What is the key to peace and joy?      | 19. What is the theme of Philippians three?      |
| 9. Where is this key stated?              | 20. What is the key?                             |
| 10. Quote this verse.                     | 21. Where is the key stated?                     |
| 11. What is the theme of Philippians one? | 22. Quote this verse.                            |

II. Reading Assignment: Philippians 4:1-23

III. Being Right with the Lord

Please read Philippians 4:1-4.

A. Term to Define

implore

B. Discussion Question

What exhortations did Paul give to various disciples in Philippi? (Verses 1-3)

C. Thought Questions

1. What should be the Christian's mind set? (Verse 4)
2. On what basis? (Ibid)

IV. Being Right with Others

Please read Philippians 4:5.

A. Terms to Define

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. gentleness | 2. at hand |
|---------------|------------|

B. Thought Questions

1. What attitude should govern our relationships with others?
2. Why?

## V. Praying

Please read Philippians 4:6-7.

### A. Terms to Define

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. anxious | 2. supplication |
|------------|-----------------|

### B. Thought Questions

1. Should Christians worry? (Verse 6)
2. How can we drive worry from our lives? (Ibid)
3. What will be the result? (Verse 7)

## VI. Thinking Right

Please read Philippians 4:8.

### A. Terms to Define

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. true   | 6. good report  |
| 2. noble  | 7. virtue       |
| 3. just   | 8. praiseworthy |
| 4. pure   | 9. meditate     |
| 5. lovely |                 |

### B. Thought Questions

1. Can we control what we think about?
2. What should we think about?

## VII. Being Content

Please read Philippians 4:9-19.

### A. Terms to Define

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. content | 3. abound |
| 2. abased  | 4. church |

### B. Places to Locate (Map of Roman Empire in Age of Augustus)

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Macedonia | 2. Thessalonica |
|--------------|-----------------|

### C. Discussion Question

What had the Philippians done that caused Paul to rejoice? (Verses 10,14-16)

#### D. Thought Questions

1. What about Paul should we follow? (Verse 9; cf. 3:17)
2. What will be the result? (Verse 9)
3. Was Paul anxious for his own needs? (Verse 11)
4. What great lesson had he learned? (Verses 11-12)
5. How was he able to have this attitude? (Verse 13)
6. How was Philippi's support of Paul helpful to the Philippians? (Verses 17-18)
7. What divine promise accompanied their gift? (Verse 19)

#### D. Special Report

Was the church at Philippi Paul's sponsoring church?

#### VIII. Conclusion

Please read Philippians 4:20-23.

##### A. Term to Define

Amen

##### B. Discussion Questions

1. What praise did the apostle give to God? (Verse 20)
2. What greetings did he send? (Verses 21-22)
3. How did he bless them? (Verse 23)

#### IX. Summary

A. Theme: Joy in All Life's Situations

B. Key: Be Anxious for Nothing (The Secure Mind)

**Lesson Six**  
**Introduction to First Thessalonians**  
**(The Christian’s Hope in a Wicked World)**  
**and chapter one**  
**(The State of the Church)**  
**Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 1:8**

**Introduction**

**Author**

The apostle Paul, along with his travel companions, Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy, wrote First Thessalonians (1:1; 2:18). First Thessalonians contains internal marks of its genuineness as a letter from Paul. First Thessalonians 1:5 is very similar to First Corinthians 2:1-5, First Thessalonians 2:1-2 agrees with Luke’s description of what happened in Philippi (Acts 16:22-23), and Acts 18:5 and First Thessalonians 3:1-6 refer to the same incident.

**Where Written**

Paul wrote First Thessalonians while he was in Corinth. He sent the letter by Timothy, who returned with good news of their steadfastness in the faith (Acts 18:1,5; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8).

**When Written**

The apostle penned the epistle while he was on his second preaching journey to the Gentiles, in A.D. 52. Thus, this is Paul’s first letter and perhaps the first book of the New Testament.

**To Whom Written**

Paul addresses “the church of the Thessalonians” (1:1).

**The City of Thessalonica**

Thessalonica is a seaport located at the head of the Thermaic Gulf in Macedonia, possessed an excellent harbor, and was on the well traveled Egnatian Way. When Macedonia was made a Roman colony in 146 BC, Thessalonica, the largest city of Macedonia, with a population of ca. 200,000, was made the capital of the second division of the country. The city was affectionately called the “mother of all Macedon.” It had been granted the status of a free city. Because the people were largely idolatrous, it was a grossly immoral city (1:9). Since it was an important commercial city, it had a large Jewish population, who had their own synagogue (Acts 17:1).

**The Church in Thessalonica**

Paul, Silas and Timothy came to Thessalonica after they had preached in Philippi on the apostle’s second journey (Acts 16:1-3; 17:1-2). Paul preached to the Jews in their synagogue for three Sabbaths, proving that Jesus was Christ by appealing to the Old Testament prophets (Acts 17:2-3). There are three reasons to believe Paul stayed in



Thessalonica at least several months. He converted a large number of people, including proselytes to Judaism, upper class women, and Gentiles (Acts 17:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:9). Paul engaged in manual labor while there (2 Thessalonians 3:7-8), and he received support at least twice from Philippi while in Thessalonica (Philippians 4:16). The apostle preached boldly among them in the face of much opposition (2:2,14-16). His work among them was as a father with his children (2:3-11), while they received his preaching as the word of God (2:13). He was forced to leave Thessalonica by a Jewish persecution (Acts 17:5-10). He was anxious about them, and desired to return, but was hindered by Satan (2:17-20). He sent back Timothy from Athens to find out about them (3:1-5). Timothy brought back to Paul the comforting news of a faithful church who loved Paul (3:1-10; 1:3,8). They were surrounded, however, by ungodliness and were being persecuted (2:14). It was hard to be a Christian.

### Theme

The theme of First Thessalonians is the Christian's hope in a wicked world. The second coming of Christ is mentioned in every chapter (1:9-10; 2:19; 3:12-13; 4:13-18; 5:23). It is the incentive for the Christian to live a godly life in a wicked world. The fullest statement of this hope is found in First Thessalonians 4:13-18, one of the greatest passages of comfort and hope in the Bible.

## **Outline**

- I. Introduction - 1:1
- II. Paul's Thanksgiving for Them (The State of the Church) - 1:2-10
  - A. Elect - verses 2-5
  - B. Exemplary - verses 6-7
  - C. Evangelistic - verses 8
  - D. Expectant - verses 9-10
- III. Paul's Work Among Them (The Preacher and His Work) - 2:1-12
  - A. Faithful Steward - verses 1-6
  - B. Loving Mother - verses 7-8
  - C. Concerned Father - verses 9-12
- IV. Paul's Further Thanksgiving for Them (Receiving the Gospel) - 2:13-16
- V. Paul's Concern for Them - 2:17 - 3:8
- VI. Paul's Prayer for Them - 3:9-13
- VII. Sanctification - 4:1-12
- VIII. The Hope for the Righteous Dead - 4:13-18
- IX. The Times and the Seasons - 5:1-3
- X. Watch and Be Sober - 5:4-11
- XI. Exhortations - 5:12-22
- XII. Conclusion - 5:23-28

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Who wrote First Thessalonians?
2. From where was it written?
3. When was it written?
4. To whom was it written?
5. Describe the city of Thessalonica.
6. Relate the history of the church in Thessalonica.
7. What is the theme of First Thessalonians?
8. What passage most fully states this theme?

## The State of the Church

Reading Assignment: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### I. Paul's Introduction

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:1.

Person to Identify

Silvanus

### II. Paul's Thanksgiving for Them (The State of the Church)

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10.

#### A. Terms to Define

1. labor
2. patience
3. election
4. assurance
5. wrath

#### B. Place to Locate

Achaia

#### C. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul always give thanks for the church in Thessalonica? (Verses 2-4)
2. How did they receive the gospel? (Verses 5-7)
3. How were they an example of evangelism? (Verse 8)
4. Describe their conversion. (Verses 9-10)

#### D. Thought Question

How are the saved elected?

### III. Summary: Paul's Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (The State of the Church)



**Lesson Seven**  
**The Preacher, His Work, and His Audience**  
**Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:13**

I. Review

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Who wrote First Thessalonians? | 5. What is the theme of First Thessalonians?     |
| 2. Where did he write it?         | 6. Where is this theme most fully stated?        |
| 3. When did he write it?          | 7. What is the theme of First Thessalonians one? |
| 4. To whom did he write?          | 8. Quote First Thessalonians 1:8.                |

II. Reading Assignment: First Thessalonians 2:1-16

III. Paul the Faithful Steward

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6.

A. Terms to Define

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. in vain            | 4. exhortation |
| 2. spitefully treated | 5. apostles    |
| 3. bold               |                |

B. Discussion Question

Was Paul's work in Thessalonica successful? (Verse 1; cf. Acts 17:1-4)

C. Thought Questions

1. Did he allow conflict to stop his preaching? (Verse 2; cf. Acts 16:16-24; 17:5-10)
2. What were his motives? (Verses 3-6)
3. What methods did he employ? (Ibid)

IV. Like a Loving Mother

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

A. Terms to Define

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1. cherishes | 2. affectionately longing |
|--------------|---------------------------|

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Paul treat the Thessalonians? (Verse 7)
2. What was his attitude toward them? (Verse 8)

## V. As a Concerned Father

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

### A. Terms to Define

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. toil     | 4. comforted |
| 2. devoutly | 5. charged   |
| 3. justly   | 6. kingdom   |

### B. Discussion Questions

1. How did the apostle behave among the disciples in Thessalonica? (Verses 9-10)
2. How did he teach them? (Verse 11)
3. What was his purpose toward them? (Verse 12)

### C. Special Report

What do we learn in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 about the relationship of a preacher to the congregation with which he labors?

## IV. Paul's Further Thanksgiving for Them (Receiving the Gospel)

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16.

### A. Terms to Define

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. believe  | 3. persecuted |
| 2. prophets | 4. uttermost  |

### B. Place to Locate

Judea (Map of Roman Empire in Age of Augustus)

### C. Discussion Questions

1. How had the Thessalonians received Paul's message? (Verse 13)
2. How had they imitated the churches of Judea? (Verses 14)
3. Of what sins were the Judeans guilty? (Verses 15-16)
4. What was the result? (Verse 16; cf. Matthew 23:32-33,37-39; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10)

### D. Thought Questions

1. What was the source of the apostolic message?
2. What is its power?

3. What will happen to those who try to hinder its proclamation?

4. What do we learn from this passage about the obligations of those who hear the gospel?

V. Summary

A. Paul's Work Among Them (The Preacher and His Work)

B. Paul's Further Thanksgiving for Them (Receiving the Word)

**Lesson Eight**  
**Paul's Concern and Prayer for Them**  
**Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:19**

I. Review

1. Who wrote First Thessalonians?
2. Where did he write it?
3. When did he write it?
4. To whom did he write?
5. What is the theme of First Thessalonians?
6. Where is this theme most fully stated?
7. What is the theme of 1 Thessalonians one?
8. Quote First Thessalonians 1:8
9. What is the theme of 1 Thessaonians 2:1-16?
10. Quote 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

II. Reading Assignment: First Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:13

III. Paul's Concern for Them (Standing Fast)

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:8.

A. Terms to Define

1. establish
2. suffer tribulation

B. Discussion Questions

1. How strongly did Paul desire to see the brethren in Thessalonica? (Verse 17)
2. What kept him from going to them? (Verse 18)
3. How much did they mean to him? (Verses 19-20)
4. Why did the apostle send Timothy back to Thessalonica? (Verses 1-3; cf. Acts 17:14-15; 18:5)
5. How highly did Paul regard Timothy? (Verse 2)
6. Why was he concerned for them? (Verse 5)
8. What news encouraged the apostle Paul? (Verses 6-7)
9. How important were they to him? (Verse 8)

C. Thought Questions

1. What should be the attitude of a preacher toward those whom he converts to Christ? (Verses 17-20,8)
2. What should be the attitude of preachers toward one another? (Verse 2)
3. What is the responsibility of a preacher toward those who are converted? (Verse 2)
4. Should Christians expect persecution? (Verses 3-4)

5. What must we do when persecuted? (Verse 8)

#### IV. Paul's Prayer for Them

Please read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13.

##### A. Terms to Define

1. perfect
2. holiness

##### B. Discussion Questions

1. Why was Paul thankful for the brethren in Thessalonica? (Verse 1)
2. What did he desire to do for them? (Verse 2)
3. What did he pray for them? (Verses 11-13)

##### C. Thought Questions

1. Was Paul's prayer to see them again answered? (Acts 20:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:3)
2. What are the characteristics of mature, strong Christians?

#### V. Summary

- A. Paul's Concern for Them (Stand Fast)
- B. Paul's Prayer for Them (Be Perfected)

## Lesson Nine

### Sanctification and the Hope for the Righteous Dead

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:14

#### I. Review

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Who wrote First Thessalonians?            | 8. Quote First Thessalonians 1:8               |
| 2. Where did he write it?                    | 9. What is the theme of 1 Thessaonians 2:1-16? |
| 3. When did he write it?                     | 10. Quote 1 Thessalonians 2:13.                |
| 4. To whom did he write?                     | 11. What was Paul's concern for them?          |
| 5. What is the theme of First Thessalonians? | 12. What was his prayer for them?              |
| 6. Where is this theme most fully stated?    | 13. Quote 1 Thessalonians 2:19.                |
| 7. What is the theme of 1 Thessalonians one? |  |

#### II. Reading Assignment: First Thessalonians chapter four

#### III. Sanctification

Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

##### A. Terms to Define

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. sanctification    | 5. defraud        |
| 2. sexual immorality | 6. uncleanness    |
| 3. vessel            | 7. brotherly love |
| 4. passion of lust   | 8. quiet          |

##### B. Discussion Questions

1. What did the apostle Paul urge and exhort the Thessalonian disciples to do? (Verse 1)
2. Why? (Verses 1-2)
3. What was the will of God for them? (Verse 3)

##### C. Thought Questions

1. What must we eliminate from our lives to be sanctified? (Verses 3-7)
2. Why should we be sanctified? (Verse 8)
3. What should we practice in order to be sanctified? (Verses 9-12)
4. How is sanctification brought about in our lives? (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 6:17)

#### IV. The Hope for the Righteous Dead

Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

##### A. Terms to Define

1. fallen asleep
2. coming
3. caught up

##### B. Discussion Questions

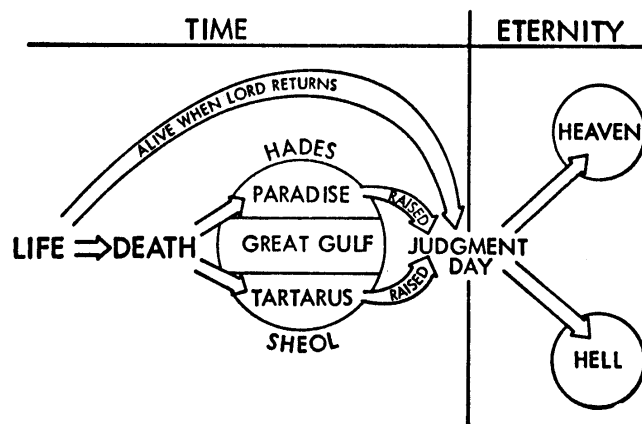
1. What is our hope concerning the righteous dead? (Verses 14-17)
2. In what sequence will events take place when Christ comes again? (Verses 15-17)
2. What is the value of this knowledge? (Verse 18)

##### C. Thought Questions

1. Is it wrong to sorrow over the death of those whom we love? (Verse 13)
2. What is the basis of our hope to be with them? (Verse 14; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:16-23)
3. Does the apostle teach that the righteous and the wicked will be raised at different times?
4. Does the passage leave room for a thousand year, earthly, physical kingdom involving the righteous after the resurrection of the righteous?

#### V. Summary

- A. How to Walk (Be Sanctified)
- B. Comfort One Another (Live in Hope)



## Dispensationalism versus the Bible

Dispensationalism	The Bible
⊗ "... we believe the Bible distinguishes between the Rapture and the second coming of Christ and ... they do not occur simultaneously" (Hal Lindsey, <i>The Late Great Planet Earth</i> . 126).	☺ The Appearance ( <i>epiphaneia</i> ) of Christ will be at His second Coming ( <i>parousia</i> ) when the saints are <i>caught up</i> ("The Rapture"). All three events are simultaneous. - 2 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:15,17
⊗ The Rapture will be secret (Lindsey. 131).	☺ He will be seen and heard by all. - 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7
⊗ Only the righteous will be raised at the time of the Rapture. The wicked will be raised at the end of "the millennium."	☺ All, both good and evil, will be both raised and judged at the same time. - John 5:28-29; 6:40
⊗ The church will be in Heaven for a period of seven years (during the Great Tribulation) (Lindsey. 127).	☺ The church will be in Heaven forever. - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
⊗ Events on earth will continue (Ibid).	☺ At His coming ( <i>parousia</i> ) this earth will end. - 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; cf. vv. 20-28; 2 Peter 3:10-12
⊗ Many will be led to Christ after this (Ibid. 132).	☺ There will be no second chance to be saved after this.- Matthew 25:31-46



**Lesson Ten**  
**Watch and Be Sober**  
**Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:6**

I. Review

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Who wrote First Thessalonians?            | 9. What is the theme of 1 Thessaonians 2:1-16? |
| 2. Where did he write it?                    | 10. Quote 1 Thessalonians 2:13.                |
| 3. When did he write it?                     | 11. What was Paul's concern for them?          |
| 4. To whom did he write?                     | 12. What was his prayer for them?              |
| 5. What is the theme of First Thessalonians? | 13. Quote 1 Thessalonians 2:19.                |
| 6. Where is this theme most fully stated?    | 14. How should we live?                        |
| 7. What is the theme of 1 Thessalonians one? | 15. What is our hope?                          |
| 8. Quote First Thessalonians 1:8             | 16. Quote First Thessalonians 4:14             |

II. Reading Assignment: First Thessalonians chapter five

III. The Times and the Seasons

Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

A. Terms to Define

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1. times   | 3. day of the Lord |
| 2. seasons |                    |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What is the time of the coming of the Lord like? (Verses 1-2)
2. How will his coming be like to those who are not ready? (Verse 3)

C. Thought Question

Are there signs by which we can know the approximate time of the Lord's return? (cf. Matthew 24:36-51; Mark 13:31-37; Luke 12:35-40; 2 Peter 3:10)

IV. Watch and Be Sober

Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

A. Terms to Define

- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. sons of light   | 3. sober |
| 2. sons of the day | 4. edify |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between Christians and unbelievers? (Verses 4-5)
2. How should this affect the way we live? (Verses 6-7)
3. What qualities of character should we possess? (Verse 8)

4. Why? (Verses 9-10)

5. What should we do for each other? (Verses 11)

#### C. Thought Questions

1. How should our knowledge of the coming of Christ affect the way we live?

2. How can we comfort and edify one another about this?

#### V. Exhortations

Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

##### A. Terms to Define

1. admonish

5. despise

2. unruly

6. prophecies

3. fainthearted

7. hold fast

4. patient

##### B. Discussion Questions

1. How should we treat other people (verse 15)

2. What should our attitude be toward the work of the Holy Spirit? (Verses 19-20)

3. What should we do concerning evil? (Verse 22)

##### C. Thought Questions

1. To what group of people does the apostle refer in verses 12-13?

2. What is their work?

3. What are our obligations to them?

4. Should we treat all sinners in the congregation the same way? (Verse 14)

5. What should we do about them?

6. Should Christians be depressed and despondent? (Verse 16)

7. How do we maintain the right attitude? (Verses 17-18)

8. Are miraculous spiritual gifts still be exercised by Christians?

9. How can we apply verses 19-20?
10. Should we accept everything some teacher says is true? (Verse 21)
11. Does verse 22 teach us not to do anything that someone thinks is evil?

## VI. Conclusion

Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28.

### A. Terms to Define

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. spirit   | 4. holy kiss |
| 2. soul     | 5. epistle   |
| 3. faithful |              |

### B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Paul bless the Thessalonian brethren? (Verses 23,28)
2. What reassurance did he give them? (Verse 24)
3. What did he ask them to do for him? (Verse 25)
4. What did he instruct them to do toward each other? (Verse 26)
5. What charge did he give them? (Verse 27)

### C. Thought Questions

1. What does verse 23 teach concerning the nature of man?
2. How should Christians greet each other?
3. What does verse 27 imply concerning the authority of the apostles and of the New Testament books?

## VII. Summary

- A. Watch and Be Sober
- B. Exhortations

**Lesson Eleven**  
**Introduction to Second Thessalonians**  
**and**  
**Comfort in Tribulation**

**Memory Verse: 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**

**Introduction to Second Thessalonians**

**Author**

The apostle Paul, along with his traveling companions, Silvanus and Timothy, the same authors who wrote First Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:18), also wrote Second Thessalonians (1:1). Silvanus is Silas of the book of Acts, who replaced Barnabas as Paul's fellow laborer on the apostle's second preaching trip to the Gentiles (Acts 15:35-40). In this letter, to protect against forgers, Paul calls attention to the fact that his salutation in his own handwriting attests the genuineness of each of his epistles (3:17).

**To Whom Written**

This letter is also addressed to "the church of the Thessalonians" (1:1).

**When and Where Written**

Timothy and Silvanus are still Paul's companions, just as they were when First Thessalonians was written. The condition of the church is the same (cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8 with 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 and 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 with 2 Thessalonians 3:11). Probably Second Thessalonians was also written from Corinth a few months after 1 Thessalonians, ca. A.D. 52.

**Occasion and Purpose**

Paul seemed to have received news of persecution the Thessalonians were patiently enduring (1:3-4), of a false doctrine that had been taught there on pretension of divine revelation that Christ was to return very soon (2:1-2), and of some who were being idle busy bodies in anticipation of the Lord's immediate return (3:11). He wrote to encourage them to be patient in tribulation by promising them Christ would repay their tormenters (1:3-12), to correct their false hopes of Christ's immediate return by prophesying a great apostasy would come before the Lord appears (2:1-12), and to command the idle to work and mind their own business and the church to withdraw from those who would not (3:6-15).

**Theme**

The theme of Second Thessalonians is **The Second Coming of Christ**.

## Outline

- A. Introduction - 1:1-2
- B. Comfort in Affliction - 1:3-12
- C. The Coming of the Lord - 2:1-12
- D. Exhortations - 2:17 - 3:15
- E. Conclusion - 3:16-18

## Questions

1. Who wrote Second Thessalonians?
2. How did the author attest the genuineness of the letter?
3. To whom was the letter written?
4. From where was it written?
5. When?
6. What special significance does this give Second Thessalonians?
7. What events in Thessalonica influenced Paul to write?
8. Why did he write?
9. What is the theme of Second Thessalonians?
10. Construct your own, brief outline of Second Thessalonians.

## Chapter One Comfort in Tribulation

### I. Paul's Introduction

Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2.

### II. Comfort in Tribulation

Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12.

#### A. Terms to Define

- 1. tribulations
- 2. kingdom of God

#### B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul give thanks for the Thessalonian brethren and boast about them to other churches? (Verses 3-4)
2. What did this prove about them? (Verse 5)

3. How did their suffering demonstrate the righteousness of divine judgment? (Verses 5-7)
4. When will this judgment take place? (Verse 7)
5. What will be the fate of those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel?  
(Verses 8-9)
6. What about His saints? (Verse 10)
7. What did Paul pray in their behalf? (Verses 11-12)

### III. Summary: Comfort in Tribulation

**Lesson Twelve**  
**The Coming of the Lord**  
**Memory Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

I. Review

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Who wrote Second Thessalonians? | 5. What is the theme of Second Thessalonians?             |
| 2. To whom was the letter written? | 6. What is the theme of Second Thessalonians chapter one? |
| 3. From where was it written?      | 7. Quote Second Thessalonians 1:8-9.                      |
| 4. When?                           |   |

II. Reading Assignment: Second Thessalonians chapter two

III. The Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Please read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

A. Terms to Define

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. falling away     | 5. temple of God          |
| 2. man of sin       | 6. mystery of lawlessness |
| 3. son of perdition | 7. delusion               |
| 4. worshiped        |                           |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What was troubling the disciples in Thessalonica? (Verse 1-2)
2. What would occur before the coming of the Lord? (Verse 3)
3. What would the man of sin be like? (Verses 3-4)
4. Why hadn't this man of sin already been made known at that time? (Verses 5-7)
5. What will eventually happen to the lawless one? (Verse 8)
6. What power does he exercise? (Verses 9-10)
7. Why do many believe his lie? (Verses 10-12)
8. What happens to those whom he deceives? (Verses 10,12)

C. Thought Questions

1. Does God deceive people?
2. How can we keep from being deceived?

D. Special Report  
The Man of Sin

IV. Stand Fast

Please read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-16

A. Term to Define  
traditions

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul again give thanks for the Thessalonians? (Verses 13-14)
2. What did he exhort them to do? (Verse 15)
3. What have the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father done for us? (Verse 16)
4. What did the apostle wish for them? (Verses 16-17)

C. Thought Questions

1. How did God choose us?
2. How did He call us?
3. Should we follow traditions?

V. Summary: The Falling Away

<b>The Divine Plan of Salvation</b>		
<b>2 Thessalonians 2:13-14</b>		
<b>Chosen</b>	<b>God chose you for salvation</b>	<b>through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth</b>
<b>Called</b>	<b>He called you</b>	<b>by our gospel</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	



**Lesson Thirteen**  
**Withdrawal from the Disorderly**  
**Memory Verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**

I. Review

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Who wrote Second Thessalonians?            | 6. Summarize Second Thessalonians chapter one. |
| 2. To whom was the letter written?            | 7. Quote Second Thessalonians 1:8-9.           |
| 3. From where was it written?                 | 8. Summarize Second Thessalonians chapter two. |
| 4. When?                                      | 9. Quote 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12.              |
| 5. What is the theme of Second Thessalonians? |  |

II. Reading Assignment: Second Thessalonians chapter three

III. Request for Prayer

Please read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2.

Discussion Question

What did the apostle Paul request that they pray in behalf of him and his companions?

IV. Confidence in the Lord Concerning Them

Please read 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5.

A. Person to Identify

evil one

B. Discussion Questions

1. What confidence did Paul have in the Lord concerning the Thessalonian brethren? (Verses 3-4)
2. What did he wish for them? (Verse 5)

V. Withdrawal from the Disorderly

Please read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.

A. Terms to Define

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. disorderly | 2. quietness |
|---------------|--------------|

B. Discussion Questions

1. What did Paul command the brethren to do? (Verse 6)
2. What example of conduct did he set for them? (Verses 7-8)
3. What principle did he establish? (Verse 10)
4. What did the apostle command the disorderly brethren to do? (Verses 11-12)
5. What should be done with those who refuse to obey the apostolic teaching? (Verses 14-15)

### C. Thought Questions

1. Was there a connection between the belief that Christ was coming immediately and the disorderly conduct of some brethren?
2. Do preachers have the right to forego secular work and receive wages for preaching the gospel? (Verse 9; cf. 1 Corinthians 9:1-14; Philippians 4:15-16)
3. Should we give material assistance to people who will not work? (Verse 10)
4. Should such people discourage us from helping the worthy needy? (Verse 13)

### D. Special Report

Withdrawal of Fellowship (2 Thessalonians 3:6,14-15; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; Romans 16:17-18; Ephesians 5:11; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John verses 9-11)

### VI. Conclusion

Please read 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18.

#### Discussion Question

How did the apostle Paul finally bless the brethren in Thessalonica?

### VII. Summary: Withdrawal from the Disorderly

## Glossary

### A

abased - brought low, get along with humble means  
abound - prosper, have abundance  
admonish - instruct, warn, exhort  
affection - compassion, tender mercy  
affectionately longing - desiring because of love  
affliction - that which burdens the spirit  
Amen - so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled  
anxious - troubled with cares, worried  
apostles - ones sent with orders, ambassadors of Christ to the whole world under the Great Commission to bear witness of His resurrection from the dead, to reveal His gospel, to rule the church through their word, and to impart spiritual gifts to disciples  
appointed - divinely set  
apprehended - laid hold of so as to make one's own, obtained, attained to, have take possession of  
assurance - full conviction, certain confidence  
at hand - near  
awake - alive

### B

believe - have conviction about unseen things based on evidence, trust  
bishops - overseers, superintendents, men whose function is to oversee the local church, also called pastors or elders  
bold - free, open, plain  
brotherly love - the peculiar love and affection which one Christian owes to another as members of the same spiritual family

### C

caught up - (Greek - "*harpazo*"; Latin - "*rapturos*") snatched away, source of term "Rapture"  
charged - solemnly exhorted  
cherishes - tenderly loves and cares for  
church  
    Philippians 3:6 - the people of the Lord, the spiritual assembly of people called out of the world by the gospel into fellowship with God through Christ  
    Philippians 4:15 - a group of Christians in a given locality who agree to worship together regularly and do the Lord's work collectively through the use of pooled resources as an organized, functional body independent of all other organizations, human or divine  
comforted - encouraged, consoled  
coming - (Greek - "*parousia*") actual, personal presence

conceit - groundless self esteem, empty pride  
confess - acknowledge openly and joyfully  
confidence - trust, reliance  
confirmation - establishment of authoritative validity, guarantee  
conflict - struggle, fight  
consolation - comfort, encouragement, solace  
content - self-sufficient, satisfied with one's lot  
crooked - corrupt in principle and wicked in conduct

## D

day of the Lord - the day when Christ comes again (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17;  
1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Peter 3:10)  
deacons - servants, men whose function is to serve the local church under the oversight of the  
elders  
defraud - take advantage of anyone, cheat  
delusion - deceit, error, falsehood  
despise - hold in contempt, consider of little value  
devoutly - holily, observing all the duties toward God  
discernment - understanding, perception, insight  
disorderly - of soldiers, out of ranks, deviating from the prescribed order or rule  
distressed - troubled, anguished, depressed

## E

edify - build up spiritually, establish in the faith, promote spiritual growth  
election - choosing  
envy - feeling of displeasure at success of others, desire to deprive another of success  
Epaphroditus - a brother sent by the church at Philippi as its messenger to minister to Paul's  
needs; faithful, self-sacrificing, and genuinely cared for Paul and the brethren in  
Philippi  
epistle - letter  
establish - strengthen, make firm, render constant  
esteem - high regard, honor  
evil one - Satan  
exhortation - a calling near, summons, (especially for help), entreaty, admonition,  
encouragement

## F

fainthearted - discouraged, disheartened  
faith - firm persuasion, conviction, trust  
faithful - trustworthy, reliable  
fallen asleep - died  
falling away - departure from the faith, apostasy

fellowship - partnership, sharing, joint participation  
following my example - imitating me  
form - external appearance which expresses the being which underlies it

## G

gentleness - fairness, mildness, reasonableness, forbearance  
good report - things spoken in a kindly spirit  
gospel - good news of salvation in Christ  
Grace - undeserved favor

## H

heart - affections  
Hebrew - Jew from Palestine who spoke Aramaic and kept Jewish traditions  
hold fast - keep secure, keep firm possession of  
holiness - moral purity of heart and conduct  
holy kiss - pure, sincere greeting  
hope - expectation of good  
humbled - assumed a lower rank or place

## I

implore - call to one's side, admonish, exhort, urge, appeal to  
in vain - empty, fruitless, without success  
Israel - descendants of Jacob (Israel), the chosen people of God under the Old Covenant

## J

joy - delight, gladness, the feeling that all is well  
just - fair, right  
justly - doing what is right and fair, especially toward people

## K-L

kingdom - realm of divine rule and blessings, the church of Christ  
kingdom of God - heaven  
labor - intense work amidst trouble, wearisome toil

like-minded - "Lit., *think the same thing*. The expression is a general one for concord, and is defined in the two following clauses: *unity of affection, the same love; unity of sentiment, of one accord*. The general expression is then repeated in a stronger form, *thinking the one thing*" (Vincent, **Word Studies in the Greek New Testament**).

Lord - master, owner, ruler, universal sovereign  
love - active good will

lovely - pleasing, lovable

lowliness of mind - putting others above oneself, willingness to provide lowly service

## M

made Himself of no reputation - emptied Himself

man of sin - man of eminent wickedness; one distinguished for depravity

mature - literally, perfect, complete as to character

meditate - cause your mind to dwell on, keep thinking about, contemplate

mercy - compassion, sympathy, pity

messenger - one sent forth with orders

ministered - provided public or priestly service

mystery of lawlessness - hidden opposition to divine law

## N

noble - honorable, worthy of respect

## O

one accord - united in soul

## P

palace - praetorium, literally "headquarters," where the commander-in-chief stayed, denotes residence of the Emperor

passion of lust - intense, greedy desire

patient - long suffering, slow to punish

patience - steadfastness, constancy, endurance

pattern - the blue print in conformity to which a thing must be made

peace - harmony, concord, absence of strife or turmoil

perdition - perishing, destruction, ruin

perfect - complete, supply

perfected - bringing to an end, or rendering complete, so that nothing is lacking; achieving the goal

persecuted - drove out, oppressed with calamities

persecuting - pursuing, harassing, troubling, molesting

perverse - turned aside from the right path, corrupted

Pharisee - strictest sect of Jewish religion, believed in angels, spirits, and resurrection, kept traditions of the fathers

praiseworthy - commendable

pray - speak to God

prayer - a seeking, asking, entreaty

preach - proclaim as a herald

prophecies - inspired messages from God

prophets - God's inspired spokesmen who preached to Old Covenant Israel  
pure - morally clean, undefiled

## Q-R

quiet - peaceful, not running here and there meddling in the personal affairs of others  
quietness - description of the life of one who stays at home doing his own work, and does not officiously meddle with the affairs of others  
rejoice  
    Philippians 1:18 - am glad  
    Philippians 3:3 - boast, glory, pride oneself  
reveal - make known, disclose what was before unknown  
righteousness - the character or quality of being right or just before God

## S

saints - holy ones, separated from sin and to God  
sanctification - purification of heart and life  
seasons - a fixed, definite, or appropriate time  
selfish ambitions - desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and factious spirit which does not disdain low arts, partisanship, factiousness  
service - ministry of priests  
sexual immorality - unlawful sexual intercourse, whether adultery, fornication, homosexuality, incest, or bestiality  
Silvanus - same as Silas, prophet from Jerusalem, leader among brethren there, Roman citizen, sent with Paul and Barnabas by apostles and prophets in Jerusalem with letter concerning circumcision and the Law, Paul's travel companion on his second journey, cosigner with Paul of First and Second Thessalonians, and messenger who delivered First Peter  
sober - alert, watchful, careful, clear headed  
son of perdition - one destined to destruction  
sons of day - those who are awake, active, and alert  
sons of light - enlightened people  
soul - life principle  
Spirit - a Person in the Godhead other than the Father and the Son  
spitefully treated - treated insolently and shamefully  
spirit  
    Philippians 1:27 - attitude  
    1 Thessalonians 5:23 - inward, invisible, immortal part of man made in the image of God  
spitefully treated - insolently, shamefully treated  
stand fast - be firm, persist, persevere, be steadfast  
strife - contention, wrangling, quarrels, discord, the expression of enmity  
suffer tribulation - pressed hard upon, be troubled, distressed  
supplication - a request arising from personal need

## T

tedious - trouble, irksome

temple of God - the church as the dwelling place of God

the faith - what is believed, the doctrine of Christ

the law - rule of conduct, standard for the administration of justice, the Old Covenant

times - any time or period that is indefinite

Timothy - a young evangelist from Lystra with a Jewish mother, Eunice, and a Greek father, taught the Scriptures as a child by his mother and grandmother, Lois, baptized by Paul, who also imparted Holy Spirit to him, Paul's trusted and beloved companion from his second journey on, cosigner of six of Paul's letters and recipient of two

toil - hard and difficult labor, hardship, distress

traditions - that which was handed down by the apostles, the teaching of the apostles

tribe of Benjamin - clan descended from Benjamin, youngest son of Jacob, born to his beloved wife Rachel, tribe of Saul, the first king of Israel, one of two tribes which remained loyal to the lineage of David, on whose soil the holy city Jerusalem and the Temple were located

tribulations - things which burden the spirit

true - right, conforming to reality

trust

Philippians 2:19 - hope

Philippians 2:24 - believe, have confidence

## U-V

uncleanness - moral filth, especially of a sexual nature

unruly - of soldiers, out of ranks, disorderly, deviating from the prescribed order or rule

utmost - to the end

vessel - a metaphor, either of the body as the container and instrument of the soul or the wife as belonging to her husband (1 Peter 3:7; 1 Corinthians 7:2-4)

virtue - moral excellence

## W

worship - publicly render religious service or homage

worshiped - honored as sacred or divine

wrath - anger exhibited in punishment

## X-Y-Z

zeal - excitement of mind, ardor, fervor of spirit



# Map of the Roman Empire



Bible Atlas Online by Access Foundation

## Appendices

### I. For to Me to Live Is Christ

Text: Philippians 1:21

Introduction:

- A. To many, contentment is just beyond reach. “If only ....”
- B. The lack of problems is not the key to peace and joy. - John 16:33
- C. Paul had learned to have peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances (joy in trouble, how to smile through tears). - Philippians 4:11-13
- D. How can we have peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances?

I. Paul was writing under the worst of circumstances.

- A. Chains (imprisonment)- Philippians 1:12-14
  1. Do we view the Lord through our circumstances or our circumstances through the Lord?- cf. Acts 16:22-25; 28:16, 30-31
  2. Key: Paul willingly sacrificed himself for Christ and the gospel. - Philippians 1:21
- B. Critics (false brethren) - Philippians 1:15-18
  1. It is easy to endure attacks from unbelievers, but, when brethren turn against us, it hurts.
  2. These people had the wrong attitude, not the wrong message. - Galatians 1:6-9
  3. Key: Paul willingly sacrificed himself for Christ and the gospel. - Philippians 1:21
- C. Crisis (possibility of death)- Philippians 1:19-26
  1. Only the Christian can accept death as a positive good. - Philippians 1:23
  2. Key: Paul willingly sacrificed himself for Christ and the gospel. - Philippians 1:21

II. The key to Paul’s peace and joy was **the single mind**. - Philippians 1:21

- A. Joy and peace are the results, not of outward circumstances, but of the proper attitude toward Christ and the gospel.
  1. “Christ” (18 occurrences) - verses 1,2,6,8,10,11,13,15,16,18,19,20,21,23, 26 27 29
  2. “gospel” (6 occurrences) - verses 5,7,12,17,27
- B. How would you honestly state it? - Philippians 1:21
  1. money - to leave it behind
  2. pleasure - to suffer
  3. fame - to be forgotten
  4. power - to lose it

III. Such dedication to Christ will be reflected in our lives.

- A. We will be “filled with the fruits of righteousness.” - Philippians 1:3-11
- B. Our manner of life will “be worthy of the gospel of Christ.” - Philippians 1:27-30

Conclusion.

A. The one who can truly say, “To me to live is Christ,” can meet all life’s troubles with joy and peace, for he knows his pilot can lead him safely through the tempest.

1. little girl on ship unafraid in storm
2. “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” (#89, **Hymns for Worship**)

B. Can you truly say, “To die is gain”?

1. Are you in Christ?
2. Is Christ In you?

## II. The Nature of Jesus Christ

The author of Hebrews exhorts Christians to remain faithful to Christ rather than to return to Judaism. He portrays the superiority of Christ to all things judaistic.

### Son of God

In chapter one he pictures Christ as **God's Authorized Spokesman** (verses 1-2). He is “so much better than the angels” who revealed the law to Moses “as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (verse 4)

How does the Son have a “more excellent name” than angels? He is the Son of God (verses 2,5,8). He is to the Father “the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.” (verse 3, **NASB**). He has the same divine nature as the Father, and that nature is unchangeable (verses 10-12). He is “God” (verse 8) and as such deserves our worship (verse 6).

Because He is the Son of God, He is God’s Authorized Spokesman (verses 1-2), i.e.. Prophet, and our King (verses 8-9,13). Therefore, we should hear Him (2:1-4).

### Son of Man

But chapter two portrays Jesus as **Man's Sympathetic Representative** (verse 17). He who was “so much better than the angels” (1:4) was made “a little lower than the angels.” (2:7)

How was Jesus made “a little lower than the angels”? He is “the son of man.” (verse 6) “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren.” (v. 17) He became “one” with us (verse 11) in that He shared our “flesh and blood.” (verse 14) The phrase “flesh and blood” is a figurative way of saying “human nature.” It is the term used to mean “man” (cf. Matthew 16:17; Galatians 1:16). He took on the same human nature we have (verse 16). He became a man (verse 6) and as such He worshiped the Father (verse 12).

Because He is the Son of Man, He is Man’s Sympathetic Representative (verse 18), i.e., High Priest, and our Savior (verses 10, 14-15). Therefore, we should be faithful to Him (3:1-6).

### Conclusion

**Jesus of Nazareth was God as He is and man as he ought to be.**

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh....” (1 Timothy 3:16)

### III. How are Christ, Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus Examples of Humility?

Text: Philippians 2:5

Introduction:

- A. The philosophy of the day is to find happiness in putting oneself first. - e.g., commercials that say “You deserve....,” the ME generation
- B. The most miserable people are those who think only of themselves. - e.g., America is a selfish nation with a very high rate of suicides and mental disorders (**U.S. News and World Report**)
- C. Paul found joy and peace in selflessly giving of himself to serve others. - Philippians 2:17-18
- D. How can we find peace and joy regardless of popularity?

I. The key is to have the mind of Christ. - verse 5

- A. No other person with so lofty a nature and position has lived upon the earth. - verse 6
- B. Yet no other person was ever more severely denounced. - Matthew 10:25

II. The mind of Christ is the mind of humility.

- A. This is not an “inferiority complex.” - verse 6
- B. It is a voluntary lowering of oneself to serve others. - verse 7
- C. This humility is expressed:
  - 1. in service to man - verse 7; cf. Mark 10:45
  - 2. in obedience to God - verse 8

III. We express the mind of Christ, the mind of humility, in the same way.

- A. in service to man - verses 1-4
  - 1. the example of Paul - verses 17-18
  - 2. the example of Timothy - verses 19-24
  - 3. the example of Epaphroditus - verses 25-30
- B. in obedience to God - verses 12-16

IV. God will reward the mind of humility. verses 9-11

Conclusion:

- A. The most joyful people in the world are those who have the mind of Christ, the mind of humility.
  - 1. They put obedience to Christ above all else.
  - 2. They put service to others second.
  - 3. They put themselves last. (**J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou)
- B. They do not have time to worry about or feel sorry for themselves, for they are too busy serving God and others.
- C. Do we have the mind of Christ?

#### **IV. What is righteousness from the Law? - Philippians 3:9**

I. The Law is the Law of Moses. - Philippians 3:3-6; cf. Romans 2:17; Galatians 3:16-17

II. Jews thought they were righteous before God through the Law. - Romans 10:1-4

III. The Law ultimately could not provide righteousness.

A. All have sinned. - Romans 3:21-23

B. Sin condemns. - Romans 5:12, 16

C. The Law provided no sacrifice to remove the guilt of sin. - Hebrews 10:1-4

IV. Righteousness from the Law

A. Is self delusion. - Romans 10:1-4

B. Leads to Hypocrisy. - Matthew 23:1-28

C. Leads to Condemnation. - Matthew 23:29-36

#### **V. What is righteousness through faith in Christ? - Philippians 3:9**

I. The System of Justification: the faith of Christ - Romans 3:21-22; cf. 10:8,16-17

II. The Scope of Justification by Faith

A. for all - Romans 3:22; cf. 2:11

B. because all need it - Romans 3:23

III. The Basis of Justification

A. by grace - Romans 3:24 (redemption - a releasing on payment of ransom, freeing a slave by manumission price, liberation)

B. through redemption in Christ - Romans 3:24-25 (propitiation - a sacrifice to appease the judicial wrath of God); cf. 1 John 2:2

IV. The Means of Justification

A. faith - Romans 3:25; 5:1-2

B. the obedience of faith - Romans 1:5; 16:26; cf. 6:3-4

V. The Results of Justification

A. God is shown to be righteous. - Romans 3:26

B. There is no grounds for boasting. - Romans 3:27-28; Luke 17:10 (boasting - glorying, taking pride in oneself)

C. God is shown to be the God of all. - Romans 3:29-30

D. The purpose of the law is fulfilled. - Romans 3:31; 10:4 (establish - cause to stand, confirm, make valid)

#### **VI. Was the Church at Philippi Paul's Sponsoring Church?**

I. The Sponsoring Church (Overseeing Eldership)

For over seventy years, among the majority of brethren, much evangelism has been carried on through the sponsoring church arrangement (now usually called "overseeing eldership"). The elders of the sponsoring church begin a program of evangelism and solicit contributions from other congregations. All oversight of the program is exercised by the elders of the sponsoring church.

Lewis G. Hale, a notable defender of this arrangement, thus described the part of

contributing churches to a radio or TV program:

*There are hundreds of churches which send financial aid to help keep the program on the air. They have no part in the management of the program. They have no part in the selection of the preacher, singers, nor sermon topics. Their part is solely that of financial assistance (How Churches Can Cooperate. 2).*

This is the work of all involved churches.

*The principle of representative work is involved when a church sends a gift to another church to assist in a work which it is doing. If the gift is to help pay the expenses of the evangelistic effort, the contributing church is preaching the gospel just as surely as if it had used those finances to have the preacher come to its own locality to do the preaching. In either case, the church is preaching by means of a representative, the preacher (Ibid. page 57).*

Thus, the elders of the sponsoring church oversee the work of a number of churches.

## II. How may churches scripturally cooperate for evangelism?

- A. A congregation may send teaching to another congregation. - Acts 11:22-23
- B. A church may act alone in supporting a preacher working with another congregation. - Philippians 4:15-16
  - 1. Only the church in Philippi “shared with” Paul at this time.
  - 2. The phrase “shared with” is from the Greek term “*koinoneo*” meaning had fellowship.
  - 3. Elders in Philippi were not overseeing an evangelistic work for a plurality of congregations, for only the church in Philippi was having fellowship with Paul.
- C. Several churches may independently and directly send wages to a preacher working with another congregation. - 2 Corinthians 11:8
- D. The New Testament pattern of congregational cooperation is concurrence (no pooling of resources by various congregations with common oversight).
  - 1. No congregation acted as an agent for another congregation (Agency necessitates subordination).
  - 2. No eldership assumed the oversight of any part of the work of another congregation or congregations. - 1 Peter 5:1-2
  - 3. Congregations did not pool resources under common oversight of either a board or an eldership.
  - 4. The only reason one church sent funds to another church was for the relief of needy brethren in the receiving congregation.
  - 5. The equality of each congregation relative to oversight was maintained.

## III. Missionaries

Modern “Churches of Christ” missionaries are overseen by the elders of the church which sends them out. I suggest you check the web sites of missionaries you know to confirm this statement. I spent eleven hours in July of 2009 in one on one studies with missionaries who defended this arrangement.

These same missionaries receive support from many congregations. The funds are sent to an account their overseeing congregation keeps for them. Thus, the elders of their

overseeing congregation are supervising the evangelistic work of a number of congregations. Elders have the oversight of and only of the work of the church where they are members (1 Peter 5:1-2). This maintains the autonomy (independence, self government) of each local church. New Testament congregations sent directly to the evangelist or evangelists they were supporting (Philippians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8) rather than sending to an overseeing congregation.

## **VII. What do we learn in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 about the relationship of a preacher to the congregation with which he works?**

- I. Bold preaching even when spitefully treated - verses 1-2
- II. No error, uncleanness, or deceit - verse 3
- III. Pleasing God rather than men - verse 4
- IV. No flattery or cloak of greed - verse 5
- V. Not seeking praise of men - verse 6
- VI. Gentle - verse 7
- VII. Sacrificial - verses 8-9
- VIII. Devout, just, blameless behavior - verse 10
- IX. Exhorting, encouraging, and imploring - verses 11-12

## **VIII. The Man of Sin - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

- I. Do not confuse “the man of sin” (2 Thessalonians 2:3), i.e., “the son of perdition” (Ibid), “the lawless one” (verses 8-9) with “antichrist” (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John verse 7).
  - A. Christians in the late first century were looking for the coming of “the Antichrist” (1 John 2:18; 4:3).
  - B. All who deny Jesus Christ are antichrist, and there are many (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7).
  - C. But the “man of sin” was being restrained at the time Paul wrote Second Thessalonians. - 2 Thessalonians 2:6
- II. It appears to me the position that fits the language, context, and other Scripture best is that of Forrest Moyer in “Guardian of Truth” [February, 1988], cf. “Expository Files.” 6.8; August 1999; “The Interactive Bible” ([www.bible.ca](http://www.bible.ca)).  
“The ‘man of sin’ is the Roman emperor(s) who brought severe persecutions against Christians as foretold by Daniel and pictured in Revelation 13ff. The following is by Forrest Moyer.  
*The reason that they should not be shaken is that the coming of Jesus would not take place until there was a falling away and until there was the revealing of "the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction" (vs. 3). A time would come when "because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12). This would be a "falling away." Then there would also be a man of lawlessness, one who would have "contempt and violation of law" (Thayer, p. 42). This man would act with utter contempt for God and His way. He is called the "son of destruction." Apoleia: "the destruction which consists in the loss of eternal life, eternal misery, perdition ... a man doomed to eternal misery. 2 Th 2:3" (Thayer, p. 71). This man of sin would be*

*eternally damned as a result of his godless iniquity and opposition to all that is holy. In verse 4 this man of sin "opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god (all that is called God) or object of worship so that he takes his seat in the temple of God displaying himself as being God." His lawlessness consists in opposing God and God's people and in exalting himself to a position of honor and worship that belongs only to Deity. He claims a higher position than could ever belong to man, a position in which he demands worship from man.*

*In verses 6-12 this lawless one is described. But at the time of Paul's writing, there was something that restrained the diabolical work of this man of sin. The Roman empire and emperors controlled the world. The Christians were protected to some extent by the Roman authorities. Rome looked upon Christianity as an extension of Judaism, and, therefore, considered it as legal. (Any religion that existed when Rome captured a nation was accepted as legal. However, no new religion was allowed to being.) When Rome became aware that Christianity was not a part of Judaism, it was then declared to be illegal. This explains why Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment and yet executed for spreading an illegal religion during his second imprisonment. In Acts 21 when the Jews sought to kill Paul, the Roman commander rescued him (22-29). In Acts 18 when some Jews were trying to stop Paul's preaching, it was the Roman proconsul who protected him (12-17). However, when Rome began to look on Christianity as illegal, this changed and there was no restraining power to stop persecutions against Christians.*

*This man of sin would be used as an instrument of Satan (vs. 9). He would come with "all power and signs and false wonders and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish." But one thing is for sure: this man of sin will be destroyed by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 8).*

#### *Who is This Man of Sin? -- Daniel Seven*

*In order to adequately answer our question, we need to consider Daniel's vision and what it symbolizes. Let us look at Dan. 7:1-12. Daniel tells of his vision of the "four great beasts ... coming up from the sea" (vs. 3). The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle (4), the second resembled a bear (5), the third was like a leopard with four heads (6) and the fourth was "dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth ... and it had ten horns" (7). While Daniel looked, he saw "another horn, a little one, came up among them .... this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts" (8-9). "Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body given to the burning fire" (vs. 11). In vv. 15-28 Daniel was quite distressed about the vision and asked one standing by (an angel?) the exact meaning. "So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things" (vs. 16). He was told that the four beasts were four kings or kingdoms (vs. 23) which will arise. These correspond to the four kingdoms of chapter 2. Daniel was especially concerned about the fourth beast, the ten horns and the other horn*



*which came up (vs. 20). "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them..." (21). "The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it" (23). The horns represent kings; the little horn that came up represents a king who "will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One ... and they will be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time" (25). Yet the time will come when his dominion will be taken away and the kingdom of God will prevail (26-27).*

*We recognize Babylon as the kingdom represent by the lion. Medo-Persia was the second followed by Greece, symbolized by the leopard. The great and terrible fourth beast represented the Roman Empire. Therefore, the horns were emperors. The number ten should be taken in the sense of a completed number rather than ten literal kings. There would arise a persecuting emperor who would severely make havoc of the people of God. He would be arrogant and boastful even against God.*

### *Revelation 13*

*Daniel's visions is complemented by John's visions in Rev. 13. In chapter 12 we saw the dragon (Satan) trying to destroy the man child (Jesus) but failing in his attempt. Then he turned to the people of God in an effort to overcome them. Chapter 13 tells of the agency he was using to overcome God's saints. There was a beast that came up out of the sea (remember Dan. 7:3?). This beast was an amalgam of the four beasts of Daniel. He was like a leopard with feet like a bear, and a mouth like the mouth of a lion. He is that dreadful and terrible beast that Daniel saw. He had ten horns and seven heads. One of his heads was wounded and yet his fatal wound was healed. He received worship from the people of the earth. "And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months" (5). The forty-two months correspond to the three and one-half years of the "horn" of Dan. 7. As in Dan. 7, this beast makes war with the saints and seeks to overcome them (7), "and all who dwell on the earth will worship him" except those whose names are in the book of life.*

*Then we see a second beast arising. This one looks like a lamb but has the voice of a dragon. His sole activity is to persuade the people of the earth to worship the first beast whose fatal wound was healed (12). In doing so, he performed "great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth... and he deceives those who dwell on earth because of the signs." He enforces emperor worship.*

*We have little difficulty in seeing the persecuting emperor(s) of Rome in this chapter and the committee going through the Roman Empire seeking to enforce emperor worship. Whether this refers to Nero or Domitian ("the fatal wound healed"?) or both is not the particular point of discussion at present. We just want to see that both Daniel and John saw the diabolical evil "king" persecuting the people of*

*God for "forty-two months" or 3 1/2 years or 1,260 days. Of course, this is not a specific, literal timeframe, but incomplete time (one half of the perfect number, seven).*

*The Man of Sin*

*Now, how does all this help us define the man of sin?*

*His "coming is in accord with activity of Satan" (vs. 9) just as in Rev. 13:2, 4. He is acting as an agent of the devil.*

*He comes "with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish" (vv. 9-10). This is also seen in Rev. 13:14.*

*There is the claim of deity - "exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship displaying himself as being God" (vs. 4). We also see this in Rev. 13:4, 14.*

*Paul predicted a "falling away" in which souls would be deceived and be lost*

*(vv. 3, 11). Daniel told how the "little horn" would "wear down the saints of*

*the Highest One" for 3 1/2 times. In Rev. 13 the beast would "make war with the saints and overcome them" (vs. 7). Jesus said, "And because lawlessness is*

*increased, most people's love will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12). (I realize that*

*Jesus is speaking of events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in this context. The comparison is that lawlessness causes the people to fall away.)*

*This "lawless one" will be slain by the Lord with the breath of His mouth and brought*

*to an end by the brightness of His coming (vs. 8). Daniel saw the beast slain and its*

*body destroyed and given to the burning fire (7:11, 26). In Revelation the beast was*

*defeated, seized, and thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (19:19-20).*

*Because of these similarities, it seems most logical that Paul is speaking of the same personage as was Daniel and John. In so doing, he was helping prepare them for the*

*coming persecutions that many of them would have to face. I fail to see that*

*advantage to these people for Paul to be speaking of some far removed event.*

## **IX. Withdrawal of Fellowship**

### **I. Introduction**

A. "discipline": whole training and education of children; e.g., for the body to be healthy, all members need to be healthy

B. There is a pattern; will we obey it? - 2 Corinthians 2:9

C. How should we exercise discipline in the local church?

### **II. Right Attitudes - Proverbs 4:23**

A. purposes - 1 Corinthians 5:5-6

B. attitudes - Galatians 6:1-2

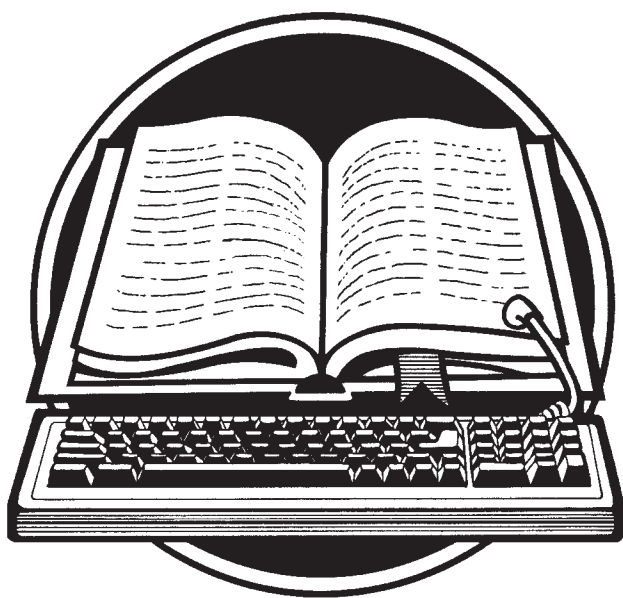
C. without favoritism - 1 Timothy 5:20-21

D. long-suffering - 1 Thessalonians 5:14

### **III. Prevention (Vaccination): Teaching - Acts 20:26-27**

### **IV. Correction (Inoculation)**

- A. private - 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- B. public - 1 Timothy 5:19-20
- V. Withdrawal (Amputation) - 2 Thessalonians 3:6
  - A. what it is - Matthew 18:17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:2,5,7,9,11,13
  - B. where it is to take place - 1 Corinthians 5:4
- VI. Continued Admonition - 2 Thessalonians 3:15
- VII. Forgiveness - 2 Corinthians 2:6-8
- VIII. Conclusion:
  - A. We cannot afford to overlook sin. - 1 Corinthians 5:6
  - B. Will we obey? - 2 Corinthians 2:9



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