

Insights From 2 Thessalonians

Other non-fiction books by the author:

Biblical Oddities

Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

The Kings of Israel and Judah

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2008 – 2009)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2010 – 2011)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2012 – 2013)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2014 – 2018)

The Lost Doctrines

Dinosaurs in History

Summary of Old Testament Events

Chapter Summary of the Bible

Creation: A Study of Origins

Theology: An Assortment of Articles

Heresy: A Study of False Teachers

Eschatology: A Study of the Second Coming

C S Lewis

Bill Gothard

Translation Issues: The KJV Controversy

The Catholic Church: A Study of Heresy

Insights From 2 Thessalonians

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 5/1/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

Table of Contents

Introduction.....4
2 Thessalonians.....7

2 Thessalonians

- This letter was written by Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (2 Thessalonians 1:1).
- Twice in two verses Paul said that God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:1-2). He clearly wanted to emphasize that fact to the persecuted Thessalonian church. Why did he do that? Well, this letter addresses the concern that the church had missed the rapture. In response Paul emphasized that God is our Father (who loves us), and Jesus is both our Savior and our Lord. Jesus hasn't forgotten us and He will remember to gather us to Him when He returns!
- The patience and faith that the Thessalonian church displayed in the midst of so much suffering made them an example to other churches (2 Thessalonians 1:4). Even though the church was being persecuted, it still held on to the faith and patiently endured terrible trials.
- Although the church had faith in God and was abounding in love toward one another, it still had to endure suffering and persecution. Their faith and love didn't exempt them from persecution.
- When we suffer in this life, God requires us to endure it with patience and faith. If we do then we're counted worthy to enter into the kingdom of God (2 Thessalonians 1:5).
- God didn't promise the church that it wouldn't face persecution. However, He did promise that one day He would punish its persecutors (2 Thessalonians 1:6). Interestingly, Paul told the church to look forward to the vengeance which Jesus will pour out upon the world when He returns, and take comfort in it (2 Thessalonians

1:6-10).

- When Jesus returns to this world at the end of the seven-year tribulation period, He will bring His angels with Him (2 Thessalonians 1:7).
- When Jesus returns and takes vengeance upon this world, He will do so with flaming fire (2 Thessalonians 1:8).
- The punishment which the wicked receive is going to be everlasting (2 Thessalonians 1:9). It's not only for a specific period of time. Instead it will never end.
- One of the reasons Jesus is returning is to be glorified in His saints and admired by them (2 Thessalonians 1:10).
- The saints are those who believe the testimony of the apostles (2 Thessalonians 1:10).
- Paul used eschatology and end-times prophecy to encourage a persecuted church (2 Thessalonians 1:4-12).
- Paul didn't pray that the persecution which the Thessalonians were suffering would stop. Instead he prayed that God would finish the work that He was doing through their persecution (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).
- The suffering of the Thessalonian church was an example of the goodness of God (2 Thessalonians 1:11).
- One of the reasons persecution is part of God's good will is because it brings glory to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:12).
- Paul expected the church to understand end times prophecy, including the rapture (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5). Not only did he expect them to understand and believe it, but he also expected them to take comfort and hope in it

(2 Thessalonians 2:17).

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to understand how to recognize that the seven-year tribulation had started so they wouldn't be led astray by people making false claims (2 Thessalonians 2:2). This means Paul expected the church to know enough about end times theology to not be deceived by heresy or false teaching.
- Paul didn't tell the church to ignore end times prophecy and focus on other things. Instead he expected them to understand it, and he answered their questions about it (2 Thessalonians 2:2-17).
- The antichrist will exalt himself above all deities and religions. In fact, he will sit in the temple of God and declare that he is God Himself (2 Thessalonians 2:4). This means one day the third temple will be built in Jerusalem.
- The last time Paul visited the Thessalonian church he taught them about end times prophecy (2 Thessalonians 2:5). Paul expected the church to remember what he had taught them about prophecy.
- Paul speaks as if the antichrist already exists but is being hidden for now by an outside force (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8). There's a force which is stronger than the antichrist that's preventing him from being revealed until it's time. The force is referred to using male pronouns ("he"). It should be noted that in the New Testament the church is referred to using *female* pronouns, so the restrainer is not the church.
- God has appointed a time for the antichrist to have his kingdom and do his evil work (2 Thessalonians 2:6).
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns He will personally

destroy the antichrist with the spirit of His mouth and the brightness of His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8). This means the antichrist will be destroyed by Jesus, not by the church or by any of God's angels.

- The antichrist will use the power of the devil to do miraculous things (2 Thessalonians 2:9). This means the devil can perform miracles.
- Those who rejected the truth of the gospel will receive the antichrist and be deceived by him (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
- Since this world refused to believe the truth of the gospel, God will a strong delusion into the world so that people will believe a lie. The reason God will do this is to make sure that those who loved sin would perish (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12). In other words, God will punish the wicked people of this world by giving them a powerful and convincing lie to believe.
- If we're suffering and are in pain, that doesn't mean God hates us. We're still the beloved of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Our suffering might mean that He has called us to suffer for the sake of His name.
- The reason we're saved is *not* because we chose God. Instead it's because God chose us. God made the decision to save us from the very beginning of creation, long before we were born (2 Thessalonians 2:13). The apostles consistently taught that salvation is a decision that God makes, not one that we make.
- God uses the Holy Spirit to sanctify us (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Genuine salvation is always accompanied by sanctification.

- Those who believe in the gospel will share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
- The church must defend the doctrines of the Scriptures and hold on to them. The church isn't allowed to cast them away in the name of pragmatism or appealing to the world (2 Thessalonians 2:15).
- Paul taught that the letters which the churches had received from the apostles were binding and should be treated as Scripture (2 Thessalonians 2:15). He wanted the churches to continue to hold on to the things that they had been taught by the apostles, whether those teachings were given by the apostles in person or written in their letters.
- God has the power to comfort our heart. That's something we can pray for (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).
- Paul wanted the church to be established in every single word that God had spoken (2 Thessalonians 2:17).
- Paul believed that the church should pursue all of the good works that are found in the Scriptures. The church wasn't given the option of picking one or two and ignoring the rest (2 Thessalonians 2:17).
- It's Biblical to ask others to pray for you (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- Churches should pray that they might be able to freely spread the gospel (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- Being kept from evil isn't the same thing as being kept from persecution (2 Thessalonians 3:3).
- Paul believed that his letters were binding to the churches and they were required to obey them. He

believed that he spoke and wrote with divinely given authority (2 Thessalonians 3:4).

- The reason we love God is because He directed our hearts to Him (2 Thessalonians 3:5).
- Paul wanted the persecuted Thessalonian church to have the return of Christ on its mind (2 Thessalonians 3:5).
- Those who don't obey God's commandments are walking disorderly. The church must separate itself from all such people (2 Thessalonians 3:6). This means obedience to God in all things is a requirement for church membership.
- Paul commanded the church to withdraw itself from those living in sin. However, that's all the church is allowed to do. No disciple or apostle ever gave the church the right to imprison or kill those who are wicked.
- The apostles taught from the very beginning that their writings and teachings were binding, and their epistles were sacred Scripture (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 2 Peter 3:15-16). The letters in the New Testament didn't need to be deemed as "canon" by some later council that took place hundreds of years later! Instead the apostles taught the church that their epistles were "canon" from the moment they wrote them.
- When the apostles visited churches they didn't ask the church to pay any of their expenses. In fact, they didn't even expect the churches to feed them (2 Thessalonians 3:8). Instead the apostles worked night and day to earn their own money and were missionaries at their own expense. The reason they did this was to set an example for others to follow (2 Thessalonians 3:8-9).
- Paul didn't believe it was good to give food to people who

were able to work but who refused to do so. He taught that everyone should have to labor for the food that they received (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

- Those who don't work are putting themselves in a place of temptation. They may fall into sin and become busybodies, and cause trouble in the church (2 Thessalonians 3:10-11).
- Giving idle people food that they didn't have to work for can lead to all kinds of trouble. Instead of doing that, the church should push them to get a job and eat their own food (2 Thessalonians 3:10-11).
- The church must refuse to have company with anyone who rejects any of the teachings of the apostles, or rejects anything that's in the letters to the churches (2 Thessalonians 3:14). It's interesting that Paul said this in a letter that's primarily about end-times prophecy. Paul didn't believe that we should “agree to disagree”.
- Christians aren't allowed to have fellowship with those who call themselves believers but who reject any of the teachings of the apostles (2 Thessalonians 3:14). The purpose of distancing from both heretics and those living in sin is so they'll become ashamed and repent. (However, no apostle ever said that heretics should be put to death.)
- The proof that Paul is the one who wrote an epistle can be found in the fact that he identified himself as its author and signed it personally (2 Thessalonians 3:17). If an epistle doesn't contain Paul's salutation then it wasn't written by him (which means he couldn't have written the book of Hebrews).