

The Teachings of 2 Thessalonians

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The Teachings of 2 Thessalonians

by Jonathan Cooper

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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!

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 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
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2 Thessalonians 1

2 Thessalonians 1:1: "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"

- This letter was written by Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.
- This letter was written to the Thessalonian church.
- God is our Father.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).

2 Thessalonians 1:2: "Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- Twice in two verses Paul said that God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our Lord. Paul clearly wanted to emphasize that fact to the Thessalonian church.
- In this letter Paul addresses the concerns of the Thessalonian church that they had missed the rapture. In response, Paul emphasizes 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.
- Paul prayed that the church would have both grace and peace.
- Grace and peace come from God the Father and God the Son.

2 Thessalonians 1:3: "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"

- Paul thanked God for the Thessalonian church because of their great faith and love.
- Since the church was a blessing, Paul thanked God for them.
- Paul let the church know how thankful he was for their faith and love.
- Paul referred to the church as his "brethren". It's Biblical to refer to other Christians as brothers and sisters.
- Paul rejoiced that the faith of the church was growing.
- Churches must be characterized by faith.
- Paul rejoiced that the people in the church showed great love toward one another.
- Churches must be characterized by love.

2 Thessalonians 1:4: "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:"

- Paul praised the Thessalonian church for the patience and faith they displayed in the midst of persecution.
- The patience and faith that the Thessalonian church displayed in the midst of so much suffering made them an example to other churches.
- The Thessalonian church was suffering greatly when Paul wrote them this letter. They were going through terrible

persecution.

- Even though the church was being persecuted, it was holding on to its faith and was patiently enduring the trials.
- Churches should respond to persecution and suffering with patience.
- Churches should respond to persecution and suffering with faith.
- God expects churches to endure persecution. Suffering shouldn't cause the church to lose its faith in God.
- When a church experiences persecution and suffering, it's not a sign that God has abandoned the church or doesn't care about it. Instead it's something the church must endure with patience, while holding on to its faith.
- Persecution may be part of the life of the church. It may be something the church has to endure.
- It's praiseworthy when a church patiently endures persecution.
- When a church patiently endures persecution, other churches should recognize that and be encouraged by that example.
- Paul knew that the Thessalonian church was enduring persecution.

2 Thessalonians 1:5: "Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:"

- When a church suffers persecution, that makes manifest the judgment of God.

- The judgment of God is righteous.
- God is a God of judgment.
- The Thessalonian church was suffering persecution because of their faith in God.
- Those who endure persecution and hold on to their faith are counted worthy to enter into the kingdom of God.
- Some are counted worthy to enter the kingdom of God, and others are not.
- God has a kingdom that we may enter.
- The path to enter into the kingdom of God may require great suffering on our part. If it does then we must endure it patiently, while holding on to our faith.
- Although the church had faith in God and was abounding in love toward one another, they still had to endure terrible suffering and persecution. Their faith and love didn't exempt them from persecution.
- Paul didn't condemn the church for being persecuted. Instead he praised them for enduring it so patiently.
- Paul didn't think it was strange for such a faithful church to be suffering so much. Instead he told them that was what they had to endure to enter into the kingdom of God.
- Paul didn't believe that since the church was suffering, that meant God didn't love that church or that church was somehow inferior to other churches.
- When we suffer in life, God requires us to endure it patiently and with faith. If we do then we're counted worthy to enter into the kingdom of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:6: "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;"

- One day God will punish those who persecuted His church.
- God believes it's righteous to punish those who persecuted His church.
- Those who have persecuted the church won't go unpunished forever.
- God didn't promise that the church wouldn't face persecution, but He did promise that one day He would punish the persecutors.
- Those who persecute the church won't be allowed to do that forever.
- Paul encouraged the persecuted Thessalonian church by telling them that one day God would punish the people who were hurting them.

2 Thessalonians 1:7: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,"

- The Lord will punish those who persecute His church. This will happen when He returns at the end of the tribulation. We must wait until then, for that will be the day of vengeance.
- The judgment of the persecutors is still in the future. It's waiting for the return of Christ.
- Paul told the church to look forward to the vengeance that Jesus will pour out upon the world when He returns, and take comfort in it.

- Paul said that when Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, He will be revealed to the world. In that day the world will see Him clearly.
- Jesus will come from Heaven to this world. When He does He will avenge His church and punish the wicked.
- Before Jesus returns to this world at the end of the tribulation, He will be in Heaven.
- When Jesus returns to this world at the end of the tribulation, He will bring His angels with Him.
- The angels of God are mighty.
- Paul told the church to patiently endure persecution and wait for the return of Jesus at the end of the tribulation.
- God has an army of angels.
- Paul expected the Thessalonian church to wait for vindication until the return of Jesus at the end of the tribulation.
- We can find rest in times of persecution by looking forward to the return of Jesus at the end of the tribulation. At that time He will return to judge the world.

2 Thessalonians 1:8: "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation He will take vengeance upon the wicked.
- Paul describes the wicked as people who don't know God.
- Paul describes the wicked as people who don't obey the gospel.

- When Jesus returns and takes vengeance upon the world, He will do so with flaming fire.
- Those who don't know God will face the fiery vengeance of the Lord Jesus.
- It's not enough to know what the gospel teaches. We must submit to it and obey it.
- The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved. Those who don't obey it will face the wrath of God.
- The day of the Lord's vengeance upon the wicked, and upon those who persecuted His church, will be the day He returns at the end of the tribulation period.

2 Thessalonians 1:9: "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

- Jesus will punish the wicked with everlasting destruction.
- The punishment that the wicked receive will be everlasting. It's not temporary or just for a time.
- Jesus will destroy the wicked.
- The wicked will be punished.
- The presence of the Lord will bring destruction upon the wicked.
- The Lord Jesus is full of glory.
- The Lord Jesus is full of power.
- The power of the Lord Jesus is very glorious.
- There will be some people who Jesus will punish with

everlasting destruction, which means not everyone will be saved.

- The Lord Jesus holds people accountable for their actions and punishes the wicked for their sins.
- The punishment of the wicked is certain and will happen.

2 Thessalonians 1:10: "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

- When Jesus returns, His saints will glorify Him.
- When Jesus returns, His saints will admire Him.
- All those who believe in Jesus will glorify and admire Him.
- One of the reasons Jesus is returning is to be glorified in His saints.
- One of the reasons Jesus is returning is to be admired by His saints.
- The saints are those who believe in Jesus.
- The saints are those who believed the testimony of the apostles.
- The apostles testified to the truth of the gospel.
- Paul encouraged the persecuted Thessalonian church by having them look forward to the return of Christ, when He will punish the wicked for their sins and be glorified and admired by His saints.
- Paul used eschatology and end-times prophecy to encourage a persecuted church.
- Paul used the topic of persecution in order to start a

conversation about end times prophecy.

- Paul didn't believe it was wrong to teach people to long for the return of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11: "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:"

- Paul said that he continually prayed for the Thessalonian church.
- Paul prayed that God would find the Thessalonian church worthy of what they had been called to do (which was suffer on behalf of the gospel).
- Paul wanted the church to be found worthy of suffering for the sake of Jesus.
- It's good to pray for churches that are being persecuted
- Paul didn't pray that their persecution would stop. Instead he prayed that God would finish the work that He was doing through the persecution of that church.
- God is good.
- The suffering of the Thessalonian church was an example of the goodness of God.
- The Thessalonian church was being persecuted by the will of God. It was due to His good pleasure, and Paul commanded the church to patiently endure what God had called them to do (which was suffer).
- Paul prayed that the power of faith would work in the church as they were persecuted.

- Genuine faith has power.
- Faith has the power to work in our lives.
- Suffering is something that God may call us to do.
- Paul said it was God's good pleasure for the church to be persecuted. He saw this as a good thing.
- Paul prayed that the church would fulfill all of God's will for them, which included suffering.

2 Thessalonians 1:12: "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- Jesus is Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- The persecution of the Thessalonian church was bringing glory to the name of the Lord Jesus.
- When the Thessalonian church was persecuted, they were glorified in Jesus.
- In order to endure persecution we need the grace of God.
- Grace comes from God the Father and God the Son.
- One of the reasons that persecution is part of God's good will is because it brings glory to the name of the Lord Jesus.
- God may call the church to suffer persecution in order to glorify the name of Jesus.
- We may have to suffer so that Jesus is glorified.
- Christians are commanded to bring glory to Jesus. In order to accomplish that, God may call the church to

persecution and suffering.

2 Thessalonians 2

2 Thessalonians 2:1: "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,"

- Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonian church to address their concerns about the rapture. The church was worried they had missed it and been left behind, and Paul was assuring them that hadn't happened.
- Jesus is Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah.
- One day Jesus is going to return to this world and gather us together to Him (at the rapture).
- Jesus is coming.
- When Jesus comes, He will gather us together to Him.
- Paul expected the church to understand end times prophecy (including the rapture). Not only did he expect them to believe it, but he also expected them to take comfort and hope in it.
- Paul referred to the people at the Thessalonian church as his brothers.

2 Thessalonians 2:2: "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to understand that

they hadn't missed the rapture, and the tribulation hadn't begun.

- Someone had been teaching the Thessalonian church that the rapture was past and the tribulation had started. The church may have received a forged letter of some kind.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to understand how to recognize that the tribulation had started, so they wouldn't be led astray by people making false claims.
- 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.
- Paul refers to the day of Christ. Earlier in this book he talked about the time when Christ would return to this world to punish those who persecute the church, and how in that day the wicked would receive flaming vengeance and the saints would glorify and admire Christ.
- The church was deeply troubled at the thought that they had missed the rapture and entered into the tribulation.
- Paul had been teaching the church a pre-tribulation rapture. Otherwise they wouldn't have been troubled at the thought that the tribulation had begun.

2 Thessalonians 2:3: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

- Paul wanted the church to have a thorough knowledge of

end times prophecy so that no one could deceive them.

- Before the tribulation begins there will be a "falling away" (a "departure"). This is most likely a reference to the rapture, since Paul was just talking about our being gathered together unto Christ.
- Before the tribulation can begin, there must be a "departure" and the revealing of the antichrist. If those two things haven't happened yet then the tribulation couldn't possibly have started.
- Paul expected the church to understand the events that must take place before the tribulation begins, so that no one could deceive them.
- The antichrist won't be revealed until after the "departure" (the rapture).
- The antichrist is called the man of sin.
- The antichrist is currently hidden, but one day he will be revealed.
- The antichrist is called the son of perdition.
- Paul made it clear that the antichrist was an evil being.
- Paul was concerned about people deceiving the church about end-times prophecy.
- There is a real antichrist, who's a specific individual that will be revealed after the rapture.

2 Thessalonians 2:4: "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

- The antichrist opposes all religions and faiths.
- The antichrist exalts himself above all deities and religions.
- The antichrist demands to be worshiped above everything else that's worshiped.
- The antichrist will sit in the temple of God and declare that he is God Himself.
- At some point in the future the third temple will be built.
- The antichrist will claim the temple of God for himself.
- The antichrist will be a male.

2 Thessalonians 2:5: "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"

- The last time Paul had been with the Thessalonian church he taught them about end-times prophecy.
- Paul expected the Thessalonian church to remember what he had taught them about prophecy and eschatology.
- At some point in the past Paul had been with the Thessalonian church in person.
- Paul had explained to the Thessalonian church the doctrines of the rapture, the tribulation, and the antichrist.
- Paul believed there was great value in teaching eschatology. He didn't avoid that subject or claim that it had no merit.

2 Thessalonians 2:6: "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."

- The antichrist won't be revealed until the right time.
- Paul speaks as if the antichrist already exists, but is being hidden for now by some outside force.
- There is a force stronger than the antichrist that's preventing him from being revealed until the time is right.
- Something is restraining the antichrist.
- The Thessalonian church knew what force was holding back the antichrist.
- The antichrist will rise to power. That can't be avoided.
- God has appointed a season of time for the antichrist to have his kingdom and do his evil work.

2 Thessalonians 2:7: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."

- The antichrist will continue to be held back until whatever is restraining him is taken out of the way.
- Paul doesn't name who's currently restraining the antichrist.
- The force that's restraining the antichrist is a male being of some kind (a "he").
- The mystery of iniquity is already at work, even though the antichrist hasn't been revealed yet.

2 Thessalonians 2:8: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his

mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"

- Once the restrainer is taken out of the way, the antichrist will be revealed.
- The antichrist is called "wicked".
- The antichrist will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus when He returns at the end of the tribulation period.
- Jesus will personally destroy the antichrist with the spirit of His mouth and the brightness of His coming.
- The coming of the Lord will be accompanied with brightness.
- The antichrist will be destroyed by Jesus, not by the church or by any of God's angels.
- The antichrist won't endure forever. He's going to be destroyed.
- Even though the antichrist will declare himself to be God and will exalt himself above everything that's worshiped, Jesus will destroy him when He returns.

2 Thessalonians 2:9: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,"

- The antichrist will have the power of the devil.
- The antichrist will be able to perform signs and wonders.
- The antichrist will use the power of the devil to do miraculous things.
- The antichrist will use the power of the devil to deceive people.
- The coming of the antichrist will be a work of the devil.

- The power of the devil won't be able to save the antichrist from the power of the Lord Jesus.
- The devil can perform miracles.
- Some miracles and signs are from the devil and are intended to deceive.

2 Thessalonians 2:10: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

- Those who rejected the truth of the gospel will receive the antichrist and be deceived by him.
- Those who accept the antichrist will perish along with him.
- Those who accept the antichrist are unrighteous.
- Unrighteousness is deceptive.
- God has called us to love the truth.
- Those who don't love the truth will be deceived by sin and perish.
- Those who love the truth of the gospel will be saved, and won't be deceived by the antichrist.
- Those who love the truth of the gospel won't perish.
- The devil can use miracles to deceive people, so that they perish.
- There's no salvation apart from the truth of the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 2:11: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"

- God is going to send a strong delusion into the world so that people are deceived and believe a lie.
- The reason God will deceive the world is because they rejected the truth and refused to believe it.
- Since the world refused to believe the truth, God will send them a strong delusion so they will believe a lie.
- The deception of the antichrist will be very powerful.
- The delusion that God will send upon the world in the end-times will be very strong.
- God will punish the people of this world by giving them a powerful lie to believe, which will deceive them. Those who believe it will perish.
- God is the one who is going to send a lie into this world, as a judgment against it.

2 Thessalonians 2:12: "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

- Since the world refused to believe the truth, God is going to send a strong delusion that will cause all those who believe in the deception to perish.
- Since people took pleasure in unrighteousness, God is going to send them a strong delusion that will cause them to perish.
- God is angry with those who refused to believe in the truth.
- Unbelief is a fearful sin.
- God is angry with those who love sin and take pleasure in it.

- God is going to destroy all those who don't believe the truth of the gospel.
- God is going to destroy all those who take pleasure in unrighteousness.
- There are enormous consequences for not believing in the truth.
- God doesn't give a free pass to those who don't believe.
- There are enormous consequences for loving sin and taking pleasure in it.

2 Thessalonians 2:13: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

- Even though the church was being persecuted, Paul called them beloved of the Lord.
- If we're suffering and in pain that doesn't mean God hates us, because we're still beloved of the Lord. It may mean that He's called us to suffer for His name.
- Paul thanked God for the faithful Thessalonian church, which stood strong in the midst of persecution.
- We should give thanks to God for faithful churches.
- Paul continually thanked God for faithful churches.
- The reason the church was saved wasn't because they chose God. It was because God chose them.
- God made the decision to save the Thessalonian church from the very beginning of creation.
- The reason we're saved is because God made the

decision to save us. It was His decision, not ours, and it was made at the beginning of the world.

- The apostles consistently teach that salvation is a decision that God made, not one that we made. It was His doing, not ours.
- God uses the Holy Spirit to sanctify us.
- We're saved by the sanctification of the Spirit and by believing in the truth of the gospel.
- Genuine salvation is always accompanied by sanctification.
- All genuine Christians have the Holy Spirit sealed within them.
- Those who have no evidence of sanctification in their lives aren't saved.
- Those who don't believe the truth of the gospel aren't saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:14: "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- God used the gospel to call the Thessalonian church to salvation.
- God uses the power of the gospel to save them that believe.
- The gospel has the power of salvation.
- Those who believe in the gospel will share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- There's glory in store for the church, and that's something we can look forward to even in the midst of persecution.

- The glory of the church comes from the Lord Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:15: "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

- Paul commanded the Thessalonian church to stand fast in the truths they had been taught.
- The church isn't allowed to compromise the truth or cast it aside.
- 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.
- Paul taught that the letters which the churches had received from the apostles were binding to the churches, and should be taken as Scripture.
- Paul wanted the churches to continue to hold on to the things they had been taught by the apostles, whether those teachings were done by the apostles in person or by the letters the apostles had sent them.
- We need to study and learn the teachings of the Scriptures so that we can stand fast in those doctrines and not be pulled away from them.
- Paul didn't say it was fine for the church to walk away from what they had been taught, and follow after something else instead. The church wasn't allowed to add anything to what the apostles had taught, or take anything away from it, or come up with their own traditions.
- The church was required to faithfully keep everything

they had been taught by the apostles, and not stray from it at all.

- Christianity is about standing fast in the truth, not finding common ground and compromising.

2 Thessalonians 2:16: "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,"

- God is our Father.
- God loves us.
- Jesus loves us.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- God has given us everlasting consolation.
- Paul encouraged the suffering Thessalonian church by reminding them of the everlasting consolation that's found in God.
- God has given us hope.
- The grace of God gives us hope.

2 Thessalonians 2:17: "Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

- Paul prayed that God would comfort the hearts of the Thessalonian church.
- God has the power to comfort our heart. That's something we can pray for.
- Paul prayed that God would establish the church in every good work.

- Paul prayed that God would establish the church in His Word.
- Paul wanted the church to be established in every single word that God had spoken.
- Paul believed that every word of God was important and none of them could be neglected or compromised.
- 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 just picking one and ignoring the rest.

2 Thessalonians 3

2 Thessalonians 3:1: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:"

- Paul asked the Thessalonian church to pray for them.
- It's Biblical to ask others to pray for you.
- Paul prayed that he would be able to freely preach the gospel to others.
- Paul didn't pray that the specific souls of individuals would be saved. In fact, no one ever did that in any of the epistles.
- Paul wanted the opportunity to spread the gospel.
- Paul asked the Thessalonian church to pray that the word of God would be glorified.
- The Thessalonian church glorified the Word of God, and Paul was happy about that.

- It's good to glorify the Word of God.
- Churches should pray that they might be able to freely spread the gospel.
- Churches should seek to glorify the Word of God.

2 Thessalonians 3:2: "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."

- Paul asked the church to pray that he would be delivered from unreasonable men.
- Paul asked the church to pray that he would be delivered from wicked men.
- Paul sought deliverance from people who were wicked and unreasonable.
- It's bad to be wicked.
- It's bad to be unreasonable.
- Paul said that salvation isn't universal. There are some people who aren't saved.
- People who are unreasonable are unsaved and lack faith.
- People who are wicked are unsaved and lack faith.
- Paul asked a church that was being persecuted to pray that he would be delivered from wicked men who wanted to persecute him. He didn't think it was unreasonable or wrong to ask a persecuted church to pray for him.
- The apostle Paul had to deal with unreasonable men.
- The apostle Paul had to deal with wicked men.

2 Thessalonians 3:3: "But the Lord is faithful, who shall

stablish you, and keep you from evil."

- The Lord is faithful.
- The Lord will establish us.
- The Lord will keep us from evil.
- We should look to the Lord to establish us (and not to ourselves).
- We should trust God to keep us from evil.
- Being kept from evil doesn't mean being kept from persecution.
- Being established doesn't mean we won't be persecuted.
- God is faithful to us even in times of persecution.
- When we're being persecuted for the faith, that doesn't mean God isn't faithful.

2 Thessalonians 3:4: "And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you."

- Paul believed that the Thessalonian church was already doing the things he wrote about in his letter, and that they would continue to do those things.
- Paul believed the material in his letters to the churches were commands that the churches were required to follow. He believed that he spoke and wrote with divine authority.
- Paul told the Thessalonian church he had confidence that they would do what was right.
- The church needs to obey God both now and in the

future.

- It's not enough to have been obedient at one point in the past. We need to continue to be obedient.

2 Thessalonians 3:5: "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

- The reason we love God is because He directed our hearts to Him.
- Our love of God comes from God and was caused by God. It's a gift from Him.
- Paul prayed that God would cause the Thessalonian church to love God more.
- Paul expected the church to patiently wait for the return of Christ.
- Paul expected the church to be aware of the doctrines around the return of Christ, and to keep them in mind. He didn't tell the church to ignore them, or claim they weren't important.
- We must learn to patiently wait for Christ.
- Paul prayed that God would direct the hearts of the Thessalonian church so that the people would learn to patiently wait for His return.
- God has the power to direct our hearts.
- God has the power to direct our hearts to Him.
- Jesus is going to return. Our job is to patiently wait for that day.
- Paul wanted the church to have the return of Christ on its mind.

2 Thessalonians 3:6: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

- Those who don't obey God's commandments are walking disorderly. The church must separate itself from such people.
- Obedience to God in all things is a requirement for church membership.
- Those who break God's commandments or reject them may not be saved.
- Those who are teaching heresy and error are walking disorderly. The church must separate itself from such people.
- Those who reject the doctrines of the Bible, or the teachings of the apostles, may not be saved.
- God doesn't allow fellowship between those who are in the church and those who walk disorderly (by sin or by false doctrine).
- God requires us to separate from those who are living in unrepentant sin, and who are teaching heresy and error. This isn't optional.
- Doctrine is very important. The church isn't allowed to tolerate those who teach false doctrine.
- Obedience is very important. The church isn't allowed to tolerate those who are living in unrepentant sin.
- The Lord commands us to separate from sin and heresy. He forbids the church from making alliances with such

people, or building bridges to them, or working with them in any way.

- The church must keep itself pure, in both doctrine and obedience to God.
- The Bible teaches strict separation. It forbids becoming yoked with evil and doesn't allow pragmatism.
- The church isn't allowed to prosecute heretics or put them to death. All it can do is withdraw from such people.
- The church must separate itself from every single person who walks disorderly (by sin or by false doctrine). It may not make exceptions to this rule.
- The commandment of God is to believe and obey the teachings of the apostles, as we find them written in their letters to the churches. Their teachings are binding and aren't optional.
- Those who reject the teaching of the apostles are to be cut off from the church.
- God doesn't allow the church to "agree to disagree" on matters of doctrine or obedience.
- The apostles taught from the very beginning that their writings and teachings were binding, and that their epistles were sacred Scripture.
- The apostolic letters to the churches were considered both Scripture and canon from the time those letters were written.

2 Thessalonians 3:7: "For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among

you;"

- The apostles didn't behave in a disorderly manner when they visited the churches.
- The apostles set an example of behavior that others were to follow.
- Paul expected the church to follow his example and behave the way that he did.
- The apostles held themselves up as examples to follow.

2 Thessalonians 3:8: "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:"

- When the apostles visited churches, they didn't ask the church to pay any of their expenses. They didn't even expect the churches to feed them.
- The apostles worked hard to pay their own way so that they wouldn't be a financial burden to the churches. They expected their example to be followed by others.
- The apostles worked night and day in order to earn their own money, and were missionaries at their own expense.
- It was very important to the apostles to not be a financial burden to any of the churches.

2 Thessalonians 3:9: "Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us."

- The apostles had the right to ask the churches to pay for their food and provide for their financial needs, but they refused to exercise that right.

- The apostles deliberately worked night and day to pay their own way in order to set an example, and they expected others to follow their example and do the same thing.
- Paul didn't want people to rely on churches for financial support. Instead he wanted them to follow his example and work so that churches wouldn't be burdened.
- Paul did more than simply teach that people shouldn't be paid by churches. He also lived it.
- Paul didn't receive money from churches. Instead he paid his own way.

2 Thessalonians 3:10: "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

- The apostles taught the church that if anyone didn't work, they shouldn't eat either. They also believed that this applied to those who proclaimed the gospel – and that proclaiming the gospel didn't count as work.
- Paul believed that church workers shouldn't be paid by the church, or fed by the church. Instead they should work to pay their own way.
- Paul didn't believe that those who were unwilling to work should be given food. Instead they should work and earn their own food.
- Paul didn't believe in giving food to people who were able to work but who chose not to work. He believed everyone should labor for the food they received.
- The principle of working for your food isn't optional. It's a commandment from God.

- Those who demand to be given food, but refuse to work for it, are violating a commandment from God.
- It's important to work for our food.

2 Thessalonians 3:11: "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies."

- It's a bad thing to not work.
- Those who don't work may fall into sin and become busybodies, and cause trouble in the church.
- Those who don't work are putting themselves in a place of temptation.
- The Thessalonian church was plagued with busybodies who didn't work, and who used their free time to harm others and cause trouble.
- It's good for a person's time to be filled with work.

2 Thessalonians 3:12: "Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."

- God commands those who aren't working to go out and get a job and start working.
- Those who are busybodies must stop doing that and fill their free time with a job.
- God commands people to work and eat their own food, instead of expecting other people to feed them.
- God requires people to work.

- If people are idle in the church and are going around causing problems, the solution is to have them get a job. The church shouldn't feed such people or give them free food.
- Giving idle people food that they didn't have to work for can cause all kinds of trouble. Instead of doing that, the church should push people to get a job and eat their own food.

2 Thessalonians 3:13: "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing."

- We aren't allowed to become weary in doing what's right.
- We must continue to do what's right and not grow tired of it or weary of it.
- We need to continue to pursue good works and do what's right, even in times of persecution and distress.
- We need to continually pursue a life of good works and never stray from that path.

2 Thessalonians 3:14: "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."

- The church must refuse to have company with anyone who rejects any of the teachings of the apostles, or rejects anything in any of the letters to the churches.
- The church isn't allowed to tolerate heresy or disobedience.
- There must never be any compromise with those who reject any part of the Scriptures, or any of the

commandments of God. The church isn't allowed to "agree to disagree" on such things.

- Those who disagree with anything the apostles taught must be removed from the churches.
- Christians aren't allowed to have fellowship with those who reject any of the teachings of the apostles.
- Churches must distance themselves from heretics and those living in unrepentant sin. However, they aren't allowed to go further than that and kill or prosecute them.
- The purpose of distancing from heretics and those living in sin is so they'll become ashamed and repent.
- The apostles taught strict separation from everyone who rejected their doctrines, or who continued to live in sin. They didn't allow any compromise on this, and they utterly rejected all pragmatism.
- People who continue to keep company with heretics are sinning.
- People who continue to keep company with people who claim to be Christians but who are living in sin are sinning.
- Churches who form alliances with the ungodly and work with them are sinning.
- God doesn't allow anyone to reject any of the teachings of the apostles. What they taught came from God and is binding upon the churches.
- Those who reject the apostles, or anything that they said or taught, are sinning.

2 Thessalonians 3:15: "Yet count him not as an enemy, but

admonish him as a brother."

- Christians must separate from heretics and those who are living in sin, and keep no company with them. However, we aren't allowed to view those people as an enemy but instead we must admonish them as we would our own brother.
- The purpose of separating from heretics and Christians living in unrepentant sin is so they'll be ashamed and listen to admonitions.
- The church needs to admonish heretics.
- The church needs to admonish those who claim to be Christians but are living in unrepentant sin.
- Paul didn't say that heretics should be put to death. Instead he told the church to admonish them.
- Although the church isn't allowed to count heretics as an enemy, they must still separate from them and have no fellowship or company with them.

2 Thessalonians 3:16: "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

- God is the God of peace.
- God has the ability to give us peace.
- Paul prayed that God would give the Thessalonians peace.
- Paul prayed that God would be with them as they suffered persecution.
- If we want peace then we should seek it from God, who has the ability to give us lasting peace.

2 Thessalonians 3:17: "The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write."

- The proof that Paul wrote an epistle can be found in the fact that he identifies himself as its author and he signed it personally.
- If an epistle doesn't contain the salutation of Paul then it wasn't written by Paul (which means Paul couldn't have written the book of Hebrews).
- Paul personally signed the letter to the Thessalonian church.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to know that he was the one who wrote this letter. Unlike other letters they may have received, this letter truly was from him.

2 Thessalonians 3:18: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

- Paul prayed that God would give grace to the suffering Thessalonian church.
- Grace comes from the Lord Jesus.
- Paul ended his letter with "Amen" (let it be).