

VIDEO BIBLE CLASS 2016-17

AN OUTLINE OF FIRST & SECOND THESSALONIANS

I Thessalonians

I Thessalonians 1

Paul established the church at Thessalonica, but was compelled to leave the city under intense persecution. Acts 17 records the beginning of the church and the background of this letter. The book is divided into two major sections: Chapters 1-3 - Paul's commendation and Chapters 4-5 - Paul's instructions.

Verse 1: Paul uses a customary greeting as he begins his letter to the newly established church.

Verses 2-3: Paul had been praying for the Christians in Thessalonica, specifically mentioning certain prominent characteristics of their conduct.

Verses 4-10: Paul commends the spiritual example that had been set by the Thessalonians. His preaching was made easier because the news about the Thessalonian Christians was spreading ahead of him by word of mouth. He mentions three chief elements of the story: they had turned from idols to the living God; they were serving God, and they were waiting on the second coming of Jesus.

I Thessalonians 2

Verses 1-5: Paul explains the underlying motive of his ministry in Thessalonica: He wanted to be right with God himself, and endured opposition in order to obey Him.

Verses 6-9: Paul's teaching was filled with love and he demonstrated it by the way he worked tirelessly to minister to them.

Verses 10-12: Paul taught them as a father would teach a child, urging them to live for God.

Verses 13-16: Paul is grateful for how the Thessalonians had received his teaching and endured persecution, understanding some did not want Gentiles to be saved.

Verses 17-20: Paul would like to return to Thessalonica to see them.

I Thessalonians 3

Verses 1-5: Paul explains why he sent Timothy to visit them.

Verses 6-10: Timothy returned from his visit with the Thessalonians and Paul is encouraged by what he has heard. Paul again expresses his gratitude to the church.

Verses 11-13: Paul presents a three-part prayer: (i) he prays the Lord will “clear a path” for him to visit them, (ii) he prays the Lord will make their love “overflow” and (iii) he prays the Lord will strengthen their hearts.

I Thessalonians 4

Verses 1-2: Paul begins the instruction section by reminding them he had already taught them the fundamentals about Christian living, which he condenses to three major subjects.

Verses 3-8: Fundamental number one: Live a sanctified lifestyle. Shun sexual promiscuity.

Verses 9-10: Fundamental number two: Love others.

Verses 11-12: Fundamental number three: Be personally responsible. Take care of your own business first.

Verses 13-17: Paul then addresses doctrinal matters regarding the second coming of Christ. He explains the chronological order of events at Jesus’ return, for the purpose of comforting the Thessalonians regarding Christians who had already died.

I Thessalonians 5

Verses 1-3: As a side note on the second coming of Christ, Paul reminds them that its precise time is unknown.

Verses 4-11: Paul instructs them they should be hopeful and encouraging, and training others to share a hopeful outlook to the second coming.

Verses 12-22: Paul gives an extended list of condensed principles for Christian living:

1. Recognize and hold in esteem church leaders (v. 12-13a)
2. Be at peace among yourselves (v. 13b)
3. Warn the unruly (v. 14a)
4. Comfort the feeble-minded (v. 14b)
5. Support the weak (v. 14c)
6. Be patient toward all men (v. 14d)
7. See that none render evil for evil unto any man (v. 15a)
8. Always follow that which is good (v. 15b)
9. Rejoice evermore (v. 16)
10. Pray without ceasing (v. 17)
11. In every thing give thanks (v. 18)
12. Quench not the Spirit (v. 19)
13. Despise not prophesyings (v. 20)
14. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good (v. 21)
15. Abstain from all appearance of evil (v. 22)

Verses 23-28: Paul concludes the letter by again expressing a prayer for them, and asking that they pray for him.

II Thessalonians

II Thessalonians 1

Verses 1-2: Paul greets the church, similar to the opening of his previous letter to them.

Verses 3-6: Paul praises them for enduring very intense persecution.

Verses 7-12: They will be blessed with relief when Jesus returns, unlike those who have not obeyed the gospel.

II Thessalonians 2

Verses 1-4: Instead of expecting Jesus to return at that very minute or being disturbed by continued false claims about His appearance, the church should anticipate a “great rebellion against God” prior to Jesus’ return. This rebellion will be epitomized in a “man of lawlessness.”

Verses 5-12: The “man of lawlessness” was already present and at work, so it is critical to be discerning and to love the truth.

Verses 13-17: The prevalence of false teachings makes it very important that Christians live an intentional and loyal life to Christ.

II Thessalonians 3

Verses 1-5: The church should pray for greater opportunities for Paul and other teachers, and pray for relief from evil people.

Verses 6-15: It is very important that we live out the ideals of Christ, including being responsible workers.

Verses 16-18: Paul closes with an emphasis on how he personally wrote this letter.

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