

INTRODUCTION TO
2 Thessalonians

READ ALONG

☐ 06/17 2 Thess. 1-3

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 50. PHILIPPIANS
- 51. COLOSSIANS
- 52. 1 THESSALONIANS
- 53. **2 THESSALONIANS**
- 54. 1 TIMOTHY
- 55. 2 TIMOTHY
- 56. TITUS

KEY PASSAGES

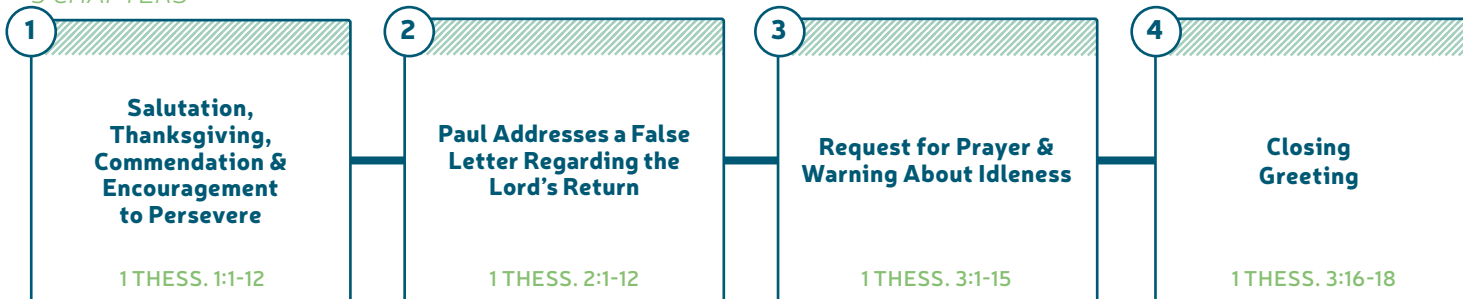
- **2 Thess 2:16**, "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word."
- **2 Thess 3:5**, "May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance."

KEY THEMES

1. How to live in light of the return of Jesus.
 - a. In chapter 1, Paul commends the believers for their perseverance in the wake of persecution and for their eagerness to see the Lord's return. Paul boasts to other churches about the Thessalonians' perseverance and faith through all their afflictions. He encourages them to wait for the blessed hope of Jesus' return, and hope for the grace that will be revealed to them for their faithfulness through persecution.
 - b. He assures the church that God's justice will repay those who have afflicted them (1:5-10)
 - c. Paul warns the believers about being idle, instructing them to keep away from every brother or sister who is idle and does not live according to the tradition received from them (3:6). This warning comes in the context of his request for prayer for the spread of the gospel and a reminder that they work quietly and provide for themselves (3:12).
2. Watch out for deception. The Thessalonian believers had been deceived in multiple ways concerning the return of Jesus. Some were teaching that the day of the Lord had [already] come (2:2). Paul corrects this deception and encourages the church to stand firm and hold to the traditions they were taught (2:15).

BASIC STRUCTURE

3 CHAPTERS



BOOK BASICS



DATE
51 AD



TYPE
Epistle



AUTHOR
Paul

Paul, the author of this epistle, addresses himself along with Silas and Timothy, but the use of "I" throughout this letter and the semantic style of its writing point to Paul as the lead author.

Paul likely wrote this epistle while in Corinth. After the delivery of the 1 Thessalonians to the church body, news was brought back from the deliverer to Paul that the church was facing severe persecution, and false news was spreading amongst believers that the rapture had already happened, the Day of the Lord had passed, and the believers had missed the Lord's return. So, when Paul heard this news, he wrote 2 Thessalonians only a few months after writing his first epistle to them.

PURPOSE

This letter was written for the purpose of 1) commendation of the believers for their faithfulness to the gospel and, 2) doctrinal teaching and correction regarding the Lord's coming again.