

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(2 Thessalonians)

I. General Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

-Title and Recipients: “Second to the Thessalonians” (1:1)

-Author and Date: the apostle Paul (1:1; 3:17), Silvanus (Silas; 1:1), and Timothy (1:1); written from Corinth ~AD 51 or 52 (Acts 18:1, 4, 5, 12-17)

-Occasion and Purpose: encourage the Thessalonians in their sufferings (1:4, 6, 7); clear up confusion about the day of the Lord (2:1, 2); correct aberrations in their living (1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:11, 12)

-Structure:

I. Encouragement in Persecution (ch. 1)

II. Explanation of the Day of the Lord (ch. 2)

III. Exhortation to Responsible Godly Living (ch. 3)

II. General Overview of 2 Thessalonians

-Encouragement: greeting/thanks (1:1-3); encouragement (1:4-10); prayer (1:11, 12)

-Explanation: one event or two? (2:1, 2; Matt; 24:29-31; 25:31); apostasy/man of lawlessness (2:3-16; Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14); benediction (2:16, 17)

-Exhortation: prayer/patience (3:1-5); dealing with “busybodies” (3:6-15); benediction (3:16-18)

III. Prominent Themes in 2 Thessalonians

-Christian Suffering (1:4, 5; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12); Sovereignty of God (2:11-14; Judges 9:23; 1 Sam. 16:14-16, 23; 18:10; 19:9; 1 Kings 22:23; 2 Chron. 18:22); Day of the Lord (imminence versus nearness: Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25; 1 Pet. 4:7)

IV. Christ in 2 Thessalonians

-The Coming Judge and Executioner (1:7-9); The Coming Savior (1:5-7); He will be glorified in His people (1:10), and His people will be glorified in Him (1:12).

V. Practical Lessons in 2 Thessalonians

1) The letter urges responsible Christian living.

2) The letter reminds us that judgment is coming.

3) The letter calls us to think about the future.