



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
“Staying Ready for the Second Coming”
INTRODUCTION TO II THESSALONIANS
February 2016 Sermon Series



Author:

Paul, the apostle (**II Thessalonians 1:1**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter. He uses Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy to aid him with the writing, like he did in the first letter. The early church unanimously accepted it as from Paul and quoted it often.

Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it around 50-51 AD in the city of Corinth. It was written as a follow-up letter to clarify some things mentioned in the first letter and to help ease the suffering of the saints. It was written during the second missionary journey when he was accompanied by Silas and Timothy in Corinth (**Acts 18**).

Theme:

This letter is about the judgment of God. He jumps right into subject in the first chapter and then addresses some correspondence between himself and the Thessalonians (**II Thessalonians 2:1**). Paul must have been very concerned with the brethren as he describes the imminent apostasy or “falling away” (**II Thessalonians 2:7, I Timothy 4:1**) that restrained the work and negated his own preaching and teaching.

Paul points out that the real enemy of the faith is the lawless one, and he would be revealed in their suffering (**II Thessalonians 2:8-10**). This activity of the “lawless one” could be the protagonists in the Jewish war against the Romans when the Temple was destroyed (70 AD). It could also be referring to the Roman emperors in general or specifically Nero (54–64 AD) and Domitian (96 AD). He also reveals that miraculous activity from the “man of sin” proves that even Satan and his angels can do amazing things. In fact, the Old Testament and the New Testament affirm that it is not just God’s people who can work miracles or participate in the supernatural.

Audience:

The church of Thessalonica was the intended audience. Paul intended for them to prepare for the “day of the Lord” (**II Thessalonians 2:2**) which is an Old Testament expression first described in **Amos 5:18-20**. It is a day of darkness and calamity. He encourages the church to be prepared for a day like this when Jesus would return (**II Thessalonians 2:8**). There have been many “days of the Lord” in history and one need not apply this expression exclusively to the second coming of Christ (**Joel 2 & Acts 2**). This great tribulation may have taken place in the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus (70 AD), rather than the end of the world (**Matthew 24:15-35**). Clearly, Paul anticipated that these people would see a fulfillment of this prophesy in their lifetime.

Key Verses:

II Thessalonians 1:3, 1:6, 1:11, 2:1-3, 2:7-8, 2:13, 3:1, 3:6, 3:10-11, 3:14-15

Outline of Our Study:

February 7, 2016

LESSON #1 = Encouragement for the Church – Chapter 1

We Need To Focus On Spirituality (vs.1-4)

We Need To Forget Our Suffering (vs.5-8)

We Need To Follow The Saints (vs.9-10)

We Need To Fulfill Our Service (vs.11-12)

February 14, 2016

LESSON #2 = Enlightenment for the Church – Chapter 2

Look Out For Trouble, But Stand Together (vs.1-2)

Look Out For Temptation, But Remember The One True God (vs.3-4)

Look Out For Terror, But Follow The Truth (vs.5-12)

Look Out For Trials, But Be Thankful (vs.13-17)

February 21, 2016

LESSON #3 = Exhortation for the Church – Chapter 3

Be Compassionate In Prayer (vs.1-2)

Be Confident In Christ (vs.3-5)

Be Challenged In Your Work (vs.6-15)

Be Captivated By Peace (vs.16-18)