

Book of 2 Thessalonians

Historical Background

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth in AD 51 within months of writing his first letter to them. The second letter shared some similar themes, e.g., questions or problems regarding the end times. Yet, the second letter distinguishes itself by its detailed teaching on the end times. Paul's letter to the new young church encourages and empowers their new and burgeoning faith while offering them an anchor from storms of false teachings and accusations.

How is the book of 2 Thessalonians relevant to us today?

Several of Paul's references indicate that some false teachers in Thessalonica were purposely misleading and misinforming the new believer. At one occasion, one of the false teachers forged letters to look as if they had come from Paul. False teachings of and about the end times continue to pop up in human history. But no one knows the day or time of the end except for the Father. Against the fake and false teachings, hope in Christ's future return encourages perseverance in godly living and staying in truth.

2 Thessalonians 1 (Endurance/Perseverance)

Observation: What was/were thing(s) Paul thankful for?

Interpretation: Why was Paul thankful?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with endurance/perseverance?

God Meeting Us: In the life of the saints who possessed/possess spiritual endurance/perseverance when and where did you experience their endeavors?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate spiritual endurance/perseverance in your life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can exercise spiritual endurance/perseverance?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating spiritual endurance/perseverance in the future?

2 Thessalonians 2 (Prudence)

Observation: What was/were thing(s) Paul cautious about?

Interpretation: Why was Paul cautious?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with prudence?

God Meeting Us: In the life of the saints who possessed/possess prudence when and where did you experience their practices?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate prudence in your life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate prudence?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating prudence in the future?

2 Thessalonians 3 (Affirmation for others)

Observation: What was/were thing(s) Paul exhorting for?

Interpretation: Why was Paul exhorting?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with people who affirm our devotion?

God Meeting Us: In the life of the saints who affirmed/affirm our devotion, when and where did you experience their affirmation?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate affirming others in your life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate affirming others?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating affirming other in the future?