

II Thessalonians

BACKGROUND:

This letter, written by Paul from Corinth in late 51 or early 52 A.D., followed a few months after the first Thessalonian letter.

Since that first letter, problems had arisen in the church.

False teachers claimed that "the day of Christ" had already begun. The believers were wondering when their "gathering together to Him" (2:1 and see I Thessalonians 4:13-18) would take place. Paul writes to correct this error, assuring them that the day of the Lord is yet in the future, and to encourage the saints who were suffering persecution for the cause of Christ.

Paul tells the believers to be steadfast and diligent, serving the Lord, rather than biding their time till Christ's coming.

The return of Christ is mentioned more times (318 in the N.T.) than any other doctrine a reassuring and blessed hope for the believer but an awesome and terrifying thing to those who have not trusted Christ (1:6-10 and 2:8-12).

A brief outline of II Thessalonians:

I. Encouragement in Persecution (1:1-1:12).

A. Thanksgiving for their growth (1:1-1:4).

B. Encouragement in their persecution (1:5-1:10).

C. Prayer for God's blessing (1:11-1:12).

II. Explanation of the Day of the Lord (2:1-2:17).

A. Events preceding the Day of the Lord (2:1-2:12).

B. Comfort of the believer on the Day of the Lord (2:13-2:17).

III. Exhortation to the Church (3:1-3:18).

A. Wait patiently for Christ (3:1-3:5).

B. Withdraw from the disorderly (3:6-3:15).

C. Conclusion (3:16-3:18)

HELPS: Before turning to these, read prayerfully the Word of God, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide you and instruct you.

If you don't own a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, atlas, or reference search, don't worry. They are all available on the link below.

http://www.preceptaustin.org/2_corinthians_commentaries_3.htm

This excellent website is full of helps including commentaries. You will find John MacArthur, Ray Stedman and John Piper along with Charles Spurgeon and the Intervarsity Press Commentary (Navigators) as well as Matthew Henry's Commentary.