

Lesson 9 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 16 - 1 Thessalonians: The Second Coming

1. After visiting Thessalonica for less than four weeks during the Third Missionary Journey, Paul was concerned for the church's welfare, and sent Timothy to them. Timothy reported that they were witnessing boldly and growing in number, but facing both persecution from without, and misconception from within. Paul responds with this letter to address two main issues: 1) personal attacks against Paul, and 2) misconceptions about the second coming, that if a Christian died before the second coming, he would not participate in God's kingdom. His response is both to encourage and to instruct them, including telling the truth about himself.
2. 1) Jesus is coming again, 2) no one knows when nor will anyone ever know when, 3) the believer is not to speculate on the matter, but is to be watchful and ready, the Lord will come suddenly, 4) believers who have died will rise first, 5) believers who are alive will be given a glorified bodies.
3. "The dead in Christ shall rise first" – 1 Thes. 4:16.
4. While Christians wait for the Blessed Hope of the Second Coming of Christ, they are to maintain good works and restrain themselves from all forms of immorality (4:1-8).

Chapter 17 - 2 Thessalonians: Judgment to Come

7. When Paul sent his first epistle to the Thessalonians from the city of Corinth, he thought he had answered their questions concerning the Second Coming of Christ. However, new concerns had arisen for two main reasons. First, Paul's teachings in the first letter had been misunderstood. Second, an erroneous teaching had been seriously considered (2 Thess. 2:2).
8. It was being suggested that the Lord had *already* come again, because their severe sufferings were understood as the judgmental wrath of God!
9. Paul points out that the Second Coming of Christ could not have occurred because there had not been a falling away from the faith, nor the revelation of the son of perdition (2:3). Furthermore, when the Lord does come, He will righteously judge those who have dared to hurt His people (1:7-10).
10. If a man will not engage in honest labor, he should not eat (3:10). Paul himself set the example of not being idle nor taking advantage of the goodness of God's people (3:8).

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