



STUDY GUIDE

January 14

-

March 3

Living

*in Light of the
Second Coming*

2 Thessalonians

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF THE SECOND COMING



LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE SECOND COMING

A STUDY

on 2 Thessalonians

January 7 - March 3

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Beijing, China

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Written by TJ Johnson

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STUDY GUIDE

January 14

PRAY

til
Jesus
comes

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF THE SECOND COMING

Pray Till Jesus Comes

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Thanksgiving

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

The Judgment at Christ's Coming

5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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# Pray Till Jesus Comes

Prayer is the lifeblood of the church. Yet I fear too often the people of God swing to the two extremes of prayer. One extreme is where you neglect prayer altogether. You get so busy with life that you have no time to boldly approach the throne of grace. The other extreme is where you pray...fervently, passionately, regularly, but you pray unbiblical prayers, asking for YOUR will be done.

This Sunday we will look at the prayers offered up in 2 Thessalonians. They are a great model for us to structure our prayers after in 2024. May we truly be a PRAYING church in 2024.

Praying with you,

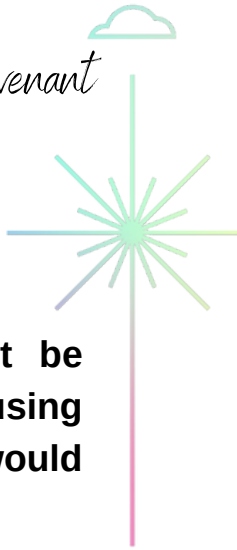
Pastor TJ

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Discussion Questions

1. What is the background of 2 Thessalonians (you might need to read Acts 17, 1 Thessalonians, and a simple commentary describing life in the first century)
2. In what ways is the first-century life of a Christian in Thessalonica similar to and different from our life in Beijing?
3. How would you define prayer, and what tips can you share with the group to help them improve their prayer life?
4. Why does Paul say he OUGHT to pray (give thanks)? What other passages remind us of the necessity of prayer? Why is prayer commanded and expected from God?
5. Where in this book (and other books) does Paul mention he ALWAYS prays for the church, and what does it mean and look like to always (without ceasing) pray?
6. What are some great time-wasters in life that might be better replaced with intimate prayer, and how can we commit to spending more time in those “worth the effort” and “as is right” activities?
7. Briefly explain the four directions of prayer mentioned in the text and sermon.
8. Share with the group some prayers God has recently answered.
9. Share with someone in the group where you have seen God at work in their life.



Discussion Questions

10. What are common false beliefs as to why a prayer might be answered? (for example, how loud they pray, how long they pray, using the right words, getting the right person to pray for them, etc) How would you counsel each scenario?

11. According to v.12, what is the motivation for Paul's prayers? What are some wrong motivations for prayer people might have today?

12. How can we know that we are praying according to God's will for His glory? Give some practical examples.

13. Briefly explain the five Biblical prayers mentioned in chapter one and the sermon that we can always have confidence to pray.

14. What are some specific ways to pray when you ask for a person to grow in faith? (aka, they would read their Bible, the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to understand, God would send them Christian friends to encourage them in the faith, etc)

15. What are some specific ways to pray when you ask for a person to increase in love? (aka, seek biblical peacemaking, God would give them tender hearts for a particular person, etc.)

16. What are some specific ways to pray when you ask for a person to endure in persecution? (Aka, What particular persecutions and afflictions are people facing in Beijing)

17. What are some specific ways to pray when you ask for a person to live holy lives? (aka, the fruit of the Spirit, overcoming specific temptation you know they struggle with, etc.)



Discussion Questions

18. What does it mean when Paul prays the church would fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power? How might we pray that for one another today?
19. Do you have any Spirit-initiated good ideas and purposes God has given you? Share with the group and pray for one another.
20. In what way does the second coming relate to all this discussion about prayer?
21. Read v. 7. How does knowing that relief from the troubles of this world will come only **WHEN JESUS RETURNS** influence the way someone might approach prayer during difficult times?
22. Read. V. 8-10. How does this truth impact the types of prayer we should be praying now?
23. What questions do you have concerning this passage or topic?

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

January 21

Stay Alert

til
Jesus
comes



2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF THE SECOND COMING

Stay Alert Till Jesus Comes

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way.

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# Stay Alert Till Jesus Comes

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ stands as arguably the most anticipated event in history. With each passing day, we draw closer to that glorious moment when Redemption History will be fulfilled, and the eagerly awaited wedding banquet of the Church will unfold.

Despite numerous claims throughout history attempting to pinpoint the exact timing of this monumental event, all have proven to be inaccurate. As Jesus wisely conveyed to his disciples in the Gospel of Mark 13:32, "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

In light of this uncertainty, what actions should we, as believers, take? Join us this Sunday as we delve into this pivotal topic, exploring the profound implications and timeless wisdom surrounding the Second Coming. Let's navigate this mystery together and gain insights that can shape our perspectives as we await that momentous day.

Don't miss out on this thought-provoking discussion! We look forward to having you join us as we unravel the mysteries of the Second Coming.

See you there!

Elder Rick Exton

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Discussion Questions

1. What is your personal theological position concerning Jesus' second coming?
2. What are the primary and secondary faith beliefs regarding the second coming, explain? (aka. What is something EVERY Christian should believe? What is a false belief worth breaking fellowship over).
3. Does the gathering of the church at the second coming have any practical impact on life today?
4. What Old Testament passages help inform our understanding of the event of Jesus' return (particularly as referenced as "the day of the Lord"), and what specific truths are taught there? How do these truths impact our life today?
5. Give examples of past false predictions of Jesus' second coming and discuss how we should view modern-day predictions.
6. Why did the teaching of hyper-preterism alarm and unsettle many Christians in Thessalonica? In what ways might believers today be "quickly shaken in mind or alarmed" regarding discussions about the second coming of Christ?
7. What are the three mediums mentioned by Paul where hyper-preterist teaching deceived many in the church? What are the most commonly used mediums today and how can we discern between reliable and unreliable sources of information about eschatological events, as Paul advises the Thessalonians?

Discussion Questions

8. As hyper-preterism was a real threat to the Thessalonian church (let no one deceive you), what are the most common deceptions the church faces today (not just related to the second coming)?
9. Why do the apostles in the New Testament Letters spend so much time teaching on the Second coming of Jesus?
10. What can we learn from Jesus' teaching in the Olivet Discourse about how we should prepare for the Second Coming? What other passages must be considered for a better understanding of the Second Coming?
11. If we live our lives every day in the awareness that Jesus is coming back soon, how would that change our behavior or our Christian walk?
12. As we look at the world situation, do you feel that Jesus' return is imminent?
13. What were your major takeaways from Sunday's sermons?
14. Are you ready for Jesus' return? Explain
15. What questions do you have regarding Jesus' Second Coming?

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

January 28

Stay Hopefull

til Jesus
comes
Part 1 
(Antichrists)

2 Thessalonians 2:3b-12

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF THE SECOND COMING

Stay Hopeful Till Jesus Comes Pt. 1 (Antichrists)

2 Thessalonians 2:3b-12

3b For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

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# Stay Hopeful Till Jesus Comes Pt. 1 (Antichrists)

This week we come to what is considered by most theologians the most difficult passage the Apostle Paul ever penned (2 Thessalonians 2:3b-12). There is much we don't know about Jesus' second coming and the end time events surrounding His Parousia. And I am certain that there are varying ideas in our church about Jesus' second coming. As a church, we make space for those varying views of the end times. But there is ONE thing we rally around, and all agree about.

Jesus IS coming back.

As we say in our Doctrinal Statement:

We believe in His personal return to earth in power and glory. (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16)

Join us this Sunday as we discuss the hope of the Second Coming.

Ps TJ Johnson

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Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the Christians in Thessalonica were shaken in mind or alarmed at the teaching that Jesus had already returned?
2. Although few today teach that Jesus has **ALREADY** returned, what are some second coming teachings that shake in mind or alarm Christians today?
3. List the two events that must take place before Jesus' return and give a brief explanation of what each one is. (stick to the fact from scripture, not guesswork)
4. Do you think the rebellion (ἀποστασία apostacy) of v. 3 is Christians denying their faith, the world increasingly turning away from God, or both? Explain.
5. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 12. What truths does our generation refuse to love and how can the church loving present this truth?
6. What unrighteousness does our generation find great pleasure in today and how can the church not give in to these pleasures?
7. Read Matthew 24:10-12. In what ways do you see this fulfilled in our generation?
8. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:7. Give a brief overview of how the mystery of lawlessness has been at work in the world in every generation. (for example, wickedness in Noah's day, Judges, Elijah/Baal, Isaiah, Enlightenment, etc)



Discussion Questions

9. How does a good understanding of history and the mystery of lawlessness keep us hopeful in our generation? (as the sermon notes: In every era, in every age there has been a people who have challenged Christ...and in every era and in every age Christ has stood the test to time.)
10. What do you consider to be the mini-rebellion (apostacy) in our generation?
11. What are the names given to the Rebel of verse 3 and what do these name reveal about the individual? Do you think he is given other names outside of 2 Thessalonians? Explain your answer. (see also Daniel 11:36-37)
12. Do you think that 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 8 teach that this man will be easily recognized? Explain.
13. What would you say to someone who makes bold claims they know who this person is?
14. Why do you think this individual will oppose “every so called god”?
15. What are the possible interpretations of “he takes his seat in the temple of God,” which do you this is most likely, and why?
16. Why is it important to recognize Satan’s influence over the lawless one? How does that practically influence our lives today?



Discussion Questions

17. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9. How do we know when power, signs, and wonders are from God or from Satan? Can you give examples of false prophets in the church with false signs? Is there anyone today that you would warn people from following (be it youtube, social media, sermons, etc)
18. Going back to 2 Thessalonians 2:7 (already at work), can you identify any mini-men of lawlessness throughout history? (see also 1 John 2:18, 4:3)
19. In what ways is 2 Thessalonians 2 main theme about the return of Jesus and NOT the rebel or the rebellion and how does this bring us hope?
20. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7. Who do you think the restrainer is and why?
21. When we are overwhelmed by the events of this world, how can practically encourage one another with the fact of God's ultimate control over ALL history?
22. Why do you think God is holding back the day of Jesus' return? (see 2 Peter 3:9)
23. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (see also Daniel 7). Why does the battle between Jesus and the man of lawlessness seem so anticlimactic? (aka...and he died...and he was killed...not a lot of detail)
24. Take some time to discuss the fact that there has never at any time been a threat to God's sovereign ultimate power over all forces of evil.



Discussion Questions

25. Why do you think the text says Jesus will kill AND bring to nothing?
26. What are you most excited about Jesus bringing to nothing at His return and why?
27. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (see also Romans 1:18-32). What do you think it means that GOD sends them a strong delusion?
28. Even though Genesis to Revelation give testimony of the ultimate Day of Judgment, why do you think some Christians are uncomfortable with this truth?
29. The sermon suggests that the Day of Judgment is meant to be a comfort to God's people. In what ways should it comfort us? (See 2 Peter 2:4-9)
30. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1. What emotions do you have when you hear about our being gathered together to Him and why?
31. In what ways did the early church regularly remember the Second Coming and how can we do a better job of anticipating Jesus' coming?

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports