



STUDY GUIDE

**Living**

*in Light of the  
Second Coming*

**2 Thessalonians**



January 14

-

March 3

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF THE SECOND COMING



# LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE SECOND COMING

## A STUDY

on 2 Thessalonians

---

**January 7 - March 3**

---

© 2024 City Church  
Beijing, China  
All rights reserved.  
Written by TJ Johnson

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



STUDY GUIDE

PRAY

til  
Jesus  
comes

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

January 14

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.

~~~

# 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

~~~



## 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

Blank space for writing prayer requests.

### Praise Reports

Blank space for writing praise reports.



STUDY GUIDE

# Stay Alert

til  
Jesus  
comes



**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a**

January 21

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.

~~~



# 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."

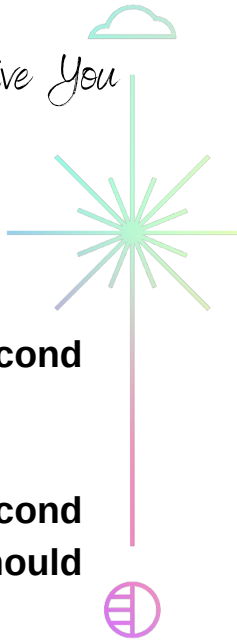
In light of this uncertainty, what actions should we, as believers, take? Join us this Sunday as we delve into this pivotal topic, exploring the profound implications and timeless wisdom surrounding the Second Coming. Let's navigate this mystery together and gain insights that can shape our perspectives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

~~~



## 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

Blank space for writing prayer requests.

### Praise Reports

Blank space for writing praise reports.



# Stay Hopefull

STUDY GUIDE

January 28

*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.

~~~

# 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

~~~



## 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)





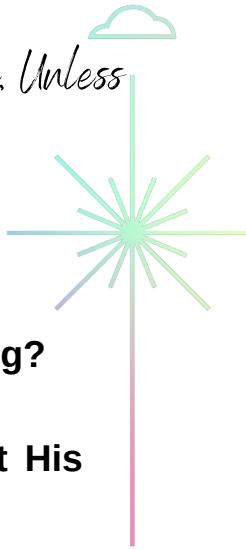
## Discussion Questions

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 think 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

Blank space for writing prayer requests.

### Praise Reports

Blank space for writing praise reports.



# Stay Hopefull

STUDY GUIDE

*til Jesus comes  
Part 2  
(Called!)*

February 4

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF THE SECOND COMING

# Stay Hopeful Till Jesus Comes Pt. 2 (Called)

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

## Stand Firm

13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

~~~

# Stay Hopeful Till Jesus Comes Pt. 2 (Called)

Last week we spend much time talking about the great rebellion and lawless one. Paul painted for us a grim picture of the future, where sin is loved and God is hated. But he goes on to give us hope in the midst of dark days: Jesus is coming! This week is part two of Staying Hopeful. Last week focused on Jesus' return, His removing the man of lawlessness, doing away with the works of lawlessness, and gathering us together to Himself. This week focuses on the hope of God's eternal purpose in our election, calling, sanctification, and eventual glorification. Because GOD, in His great love, has authored and perfected our salvation, we can stand firm in our faith until the end. That, my friends, is GOOD NEWS that brings great hope!

Marveling in His election with you,

Pastor TJ

~~~



## Discussion Questions

1. Summarize last week's text (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12) and discuss the connection between v. 1-12 and v. 13-17. (It might be useful to contrast "those who are perishing" and those God has "chosen to be saved")

2. What are the multiple ways of understanding the phrase, "God chose you"? What do you think it to mean and why (explain from Scripture)?

*(See also: 1 Thess. 1:4, Romans 9:11, John 15:16, Ephesians 1:4-7, Deut 7:6-8, Mark 13:20, Matt 24:31, Romans 8:33, Col. 3:12, 2 Tim 2:10, Titus 1:1, 1 Pet 2:4, 9, Rev. 17:14, etc).*

3. How would the doctrine of election (choosing for Himself a people) bring encouragement to the Thessalonians? How might it bring encouragement to Christians in Beijing today?

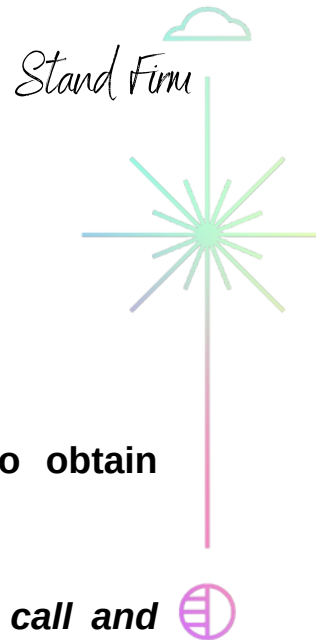
4. How does the truth of YOU being chosen by God for salvation impact how you see your self and how you live today?

5. What are the different ideas as to WHY God chooses a person (See Eph. 1:5, Deut. 7:6-8)? What do you believe are the grounds for election (explain from Scripture).

6. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 can be translated as both: chose you as the firstfruits to be saved OR chose you from the beginning to be saved. What does each of these phrases teach about election? Which do you think is the more accurate meaning from the context of 1 Thessalonians 2 (explain)?

7. According to v. 13, what role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation? Can you share your own personal experience with the Holy Spirit's working in your salvation?





## Discussion Questions

8. According to v. 13, what role do we play in salvation?

9. According to v. 14, what does it mean to be "called to obtain Salvation"?

*Note: for example, some make a distinction between general call and effectual call, while others believe only in a general call, additionally you can discuss the role of the Holy Spirit, Scripture, and Preaching in the Call*

10. In what ways might the doctrine of Election and Calling actually encourage us to be more bold in evangelism?

11. Share with the group how the gospel call came to you?

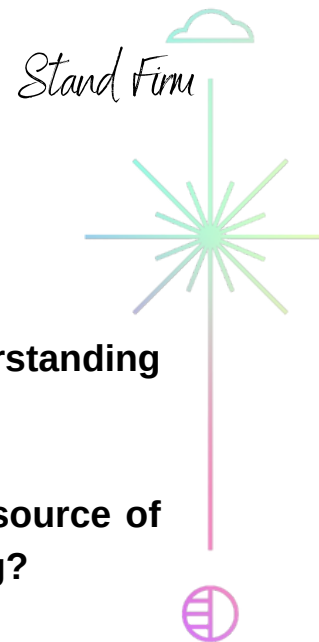
12. Compare 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 to 2:14. What does it mean to "obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ"?

13. According to v. 14, what is the purpose of God's calling and what are some common **WRONG** reasons people might be interested in Christianity?

14. Read v. 15. What might we **EXPECT** Paul to write in response to God's choosing and calling us? "So then, brothers and sisters \_\_\_\_\_"

15. How does the doctrine of election encourage us to stand firm?

16. What are the "traditions taught by us"? (see 1 Cor. 11:2, 2 Thess. 3:6, 1 Cor. 11:23, 15:3-4, Eph. 2:19-20; Note: our spoken word or letter).



## Discussion Questions

17. How can Christians today ensure that they are rightly understanding these traditions?
18. How can the traditions passed down by the apostles be a source of unity for the diverse International Christian community in Beijing?
19. What are some things Christians in Beijing might need to stand firm against?
20. How has God's grace brought you comfort and hope recently?
21. How does the doctrine of election establish our hearts for “every good work and word”?
22. What might it look like this week for you to live out your faith in both “good work” and “good word”?

**(TLDR) Recommended Discussion Questions on the next page!**



## **(TLDR) Recommended Discussion Questions:**

**1. Summarize last week's text (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12) and discuss the connection between v. 1-12 and v. 13-17. (It might be useful to contrast "those who are perishing" and those God has "chosen to be saved")**

**2. What are the multiple ways of understanding the phrase, "God chose you"? What do you think it to mean and why (explain from Scripture)?**

*(See also: 1 Thess. 1:4, Romans 9:11, John 15:16, Ephesians 1:4-7, Deut 7:6-8, Mark 13:20, Matt 24:31, Romans 8:33, Col. 3:12, 2 Tim 2:10, Titus 1:1, 1 Pet 2:4, 9, Rev. 17:14, etc).*

**4. How does the truth of YOU being chosen by God for salvation impact how you see your self and how you live today?**

**5. What are the different ideas as to WHY God chooses a person (See Eph. 1:5, Deut. 7:6-8)? What do you believe are the grounds for election (explain from Scripture).**

**7. According to v. 13, what role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation? Can you share your own personal experience with the Holy Spirit's working in your salvation?**

**8. According to v. 13, what role do we play in salvation?**

**10. In what ways might the doctrine of Election and Calling actually encourage us to be more bold in evangelism?**

**15. How does the doctrine of election encourage us to stand firm?**

**16. What are the "traditions taught by us"? (see 1 Cor. 11:2, 2 Thess. 3:6, 1 Cor. 11:23, 15:3-4, Eph. 2:19-20; Note: our spoken word or letter).**



## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

Preach

til Jesus  
comes



February 11

**2 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF THE SECOND COMING

# Preach Till Jesus Comes (Evangelism)

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

~~~

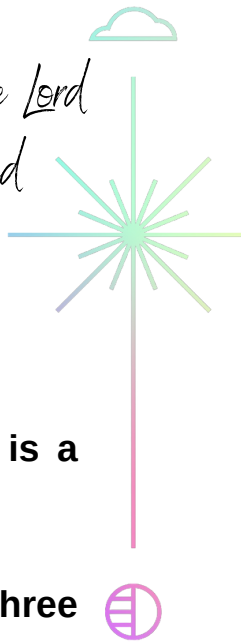
# Preach Till Jesus Comes (Evangelism)

As we have been moving through this series on 2 Thessalonians, we have been reflecting on what should we doing as we wait for Jesus return. Perhaps nothing is more important than preaching the Gospel and fulfilling the Great Commission. God has called everyone of us to preach the Good News of the Kingdom. If this idea causes you to feel inadequate and not up to the task, join the club! Come and let us explore this topic together on Sunday. I pray the message will bless you and challenge you to step out and testify to Christ!

In Him,  
Pastor Rick Exton

~~~

*The Word of the Lord  
May Speed*



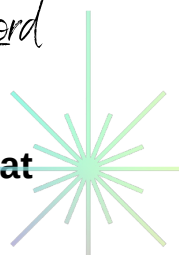
## Discussion Questions

1. What is the scariest thing about sharing the gospel?
2. Why does God ask us to go forward with the good news if he is a sovereign God?
3. Choose a few in the group to share your own testimony in two or three minutes.
4. Share a time when you shared your testimony and had a surprising impact.
5. Why do you think Paul and the other disciples were so eager to witness to the world?
6. Who has had the most impact on you in terms of sharing your faith??
7. What are some things that keep Christians from regular evangelism?
8. What evangelistic opposition did Paul face, and why did this not hinder him from preaching the gospel?
9. Can you share a time when you were witnessing and met opposition?
10. What is the role of prayer in evangelism? Share some specific verses to support your answer.
11. Why is Paul asking for deliverance in v. 2, and how is this different from seeking a life without hardships?
12. What are some specific prayer points as they relate to world evangelization?



## Discussion Questions

*The Word of the Lord  
May Speed*



13. What does v. 4 teach us about evangelism and discipleship? In what ways can we emphasize one over the other?

14. When we are in the middle of a trial, what can we do to persevere?

15. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate steadfastness and how does this empower us to do the same?

16. In what ways does God's love encourage and empower evangelism?

## (TLDR) Recommended Discussion Questions:

1. What is the scariest thing about sharing the gospel?

2. Why does God ask us to go forward with the good news if he is a sovereign God?

3. Choose a few in the group to share your own testimony in two or three minutes.

5. Why do you think Paul and the other disciples were so eager to witness to the world?

7. What are some things that keep Christians from regular evangelism?

8. What evangelistic opposition did Paul face, and why did this not hinder him from preaching the gospel?

10. What is the role of prayer in evangelism? Share some specific verses to support your answer.

11. Why is Paul asking for deliverance in v. 2, and how is this different from seeking a life without hardships?

37 13. What does v. 4 teach us about evangelism and discipleship? In what ways can we emphasize one over the other?

*The Word of the Lord  
May Speed*



## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

February 18

Work

til Jesus  
comes

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF THE SECOND COMING

# Work Till Jesus Comes (Heavenly Minded/Earthly Good)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

~ ~ ~

# Work Till Jesus Comes (Heavenly Minded/Earthly Good)

As 2 Thessalonians comes to a close God sees fit to turn the discussion to something that we spend a third of our life doing...WORK. It appears that some at Thessalonica thought work was unimportant, so they simply stopped working. Maybe it was because they wanted to dedicate their life to studying God's Word. Maybe it was because they believed Jesus was coming back soon and didn't want to waste what little time they had left doing something as "trivial" as work. Or maybe they were just lazy and found that the church was an easy way to have their needs met without having to do hard labor. To be honest, we don't know WHY they stopped working...we just know they did!

So, Paul COMMANDS them to get back to work! Paul felt idleness was such a terrible sin that he COMMANDS the church to stay away from people who refuse to work. The truth is, God cares about our work. Your nine to five or 996 or métro, boulot, dodo, matters to God! It isn't just a way to make a living. It isn't just a way to find personal fulfilment or satisfaction. Work itself is WORSHIP. Monday to Saturday God's people engage with this world THROUGH work. Your workplace is where you intercede as God's prophet, priest, and king.

Join us Sunday as we study 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12.

Working with you,

Pastor TJ

~~~



## Discussion Questions

- 1 Why do you think some in Thessalonica were idle? In what ways does our culture struggle with idleness?**
- 2 Why does Paul command the church to keep away from idle people and what might that look like in our context today?**
- 3 What Old Testament verses (“traditions”) are formative for a right understanding of work (make particular note of how this passage points us back to Genesis)?**
- 4 How would you summarize a Theology of Work?**
- 5 Who has been influential in modeling a Biblical work ethic to you?**
- 6 How can you be more intentional in modeling (mentoring) a Biblical work ethic to others?**
- 7 How can we balance the biblical call to rest and Sabbath with the command to work diligently?**
- 8 Why does Paul refuse payment from the Thessalonians Christians? Is he opposed to vocational ministry? Does he see receiving help as unchristianly? (Use the Bible to defend your answer)**
- 9 In what ways does work itself bless the world?**
- 10 Take some time to discuss how the three-fold office of prophet, priest, and king, might be fulfilled through your weekly labor.**

## Discussion Questions

**11** How do we interpret and live out 2 Thessalonians 3:10 in light of Matthew 5:42? Give any practical real-life examples you might have.

**12** Read v. 11. In what ways might idleness lead to other sins (aka busybodies)?

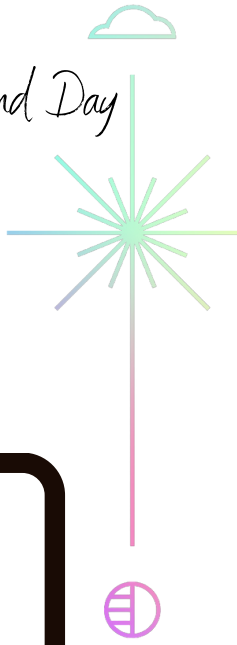
**13** Notice the inclusion of v. 6, 12. Why do you think Paul “commands”, “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

**14** What are some ways we as a church can better support a theology of work as worship where our members are empowered to encounter God in their work?

**15** In what ways do idle people become a burden to the church and society?

**16** How would you go about admonishing an idle person?





## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





STUDY GUIDE

# Exhort

til Jesus  
comes

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF THE SECOND COMING

February 25

# Exhort Till Jesus Comes

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

~~~

# Exhort Till Jesus Comes

What would happen if a member of the Beijing Vegan Society (no idea if that's a real society) brought a nice juicy ribeye steak to their monthly meeting and proceeded to eat it in front of the members? What would happen if a long-standing member of the Beijing Alcoholics Anonymous brought a bottle of whiskey and proceeded to pass out shots to all present in order to celebrate Chinese New Year?

Every group has a list of rules that members should abide by. When a member doesn't abide by these rules then they are asked not to return until they CAN abide by these rules.

The church is no exception! We too have rules, ten of them to be exact. And when a member continues to willingly live in a way contrary to their new nature, the church MUST ACT. This is what the Bible calls, church discipline. Church discipline is the process of lovingly correcting sin in the life of the congregation and its members. As we near the end of 2 Thessalonians, we turn our attention to this often neglected but greatly needed church practice. Join us Sunday as we seek to take seriously the call to holiness.

Submitting to Christ and His Church with you,

Pastor TJ

~~~

## Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen church discipline take place? If so, share what you learned from the process.

2. What other passages discuss church discipline and how do they give a fuller understanding of the practice?

*Key passages in the Bible regarding church discipline include Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5, Galatians 6:1-2, Titus 3:10-11, 1 Timothy 5:19-20, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 13-15.*

3. Why must the church “take note” of members who refuse to obey the commandments? (This is a good opportunity to discuss the purposes of church discipline: To honor Christ, to protect the church, to be a witness to the world, to restore a sinning member)

4. In what ways does church discipline teach us about the importance of church membership?

5. What does it look like practically to “have nothing to do” with a continually disobedient church member under church discipline?

6. How does 1 and 2 Thessalonians as a whole give a fuller picture of the steps of church discipline? (For example, are there any steps BEFORE have nothing to do with them)

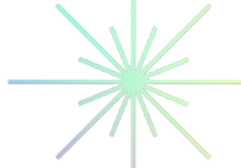
7. What are the steps of church discipline?

8. How does the church present church discipline as an act of love rather than an act of hate?

## Discussion Questions

9. What are some reasons why a church would ignore the clear command to enact church discipline? (What objections might people have toward church discipline? For example, according to Matthew 7, Christians aren't supposed to judge one another.)
10. Are there only certain sins that require church discipline? Explain.
11. What role does the congregation have in church discipline (as opposed to the individual)?
12. What is the "weariness" church members might experience during the process of church discipline and how can they "not grow weary"?
13. Is there a point in church discipline where you no longer regard the individual as a brother? If so, when? (See Matthew 18:17)
14. What are the potential dangers or pitfalls of implementing church discipline, and how can they be mitigated?
15. How can the church ensure that discipline is carried out in a fair, just, and loving manner?





## **(TLDR) Recommended Discussion Questions:**

**1. Have you ever seen church discipline take place? If so, share what you learned from the process.**

**2. What other passages discuss church discipline and how do they give a fuller understanding of the practice?**

**Key passages in the Bible regarding church discipline include Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5, Galatians 6:1-2, Titus 3:10-11, 1 Timothy 5:19-20, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 13-15.**

**3. Why must the church “take note” of members who refuse to obey the commandments? (This is a good opportunity to discuss the purposes of church discipline: To honor Christ, to protect the church, to be a witness to the world, to restore a sinning member)**

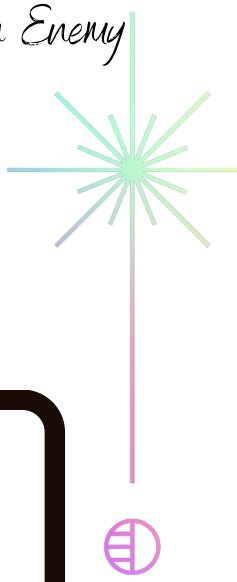
**4. In what ways does church discipline teach us about the importance of church membership?**

**5. What does it look like practically to “have nothing to do” with a continually disobedient church member under church discipline?**

**6. How does 1 and 2 Thessalonians as a whole give a fuller picture of the steps of church discipline? (For example, are there any steps BEFORE have nothing to do with them)**

**9. What are some reasons why a church would ignore the clear command to enact church discipline? (What objections might people have toward church discipline? For example, according to Matthew 7, Christians aren’t supposed to judge one another.)**

**13. Is there a point in church discipline where you no longer regard the individual as a brother? If so, when? (See Matthew 18:17)**



## Prayer & Praise

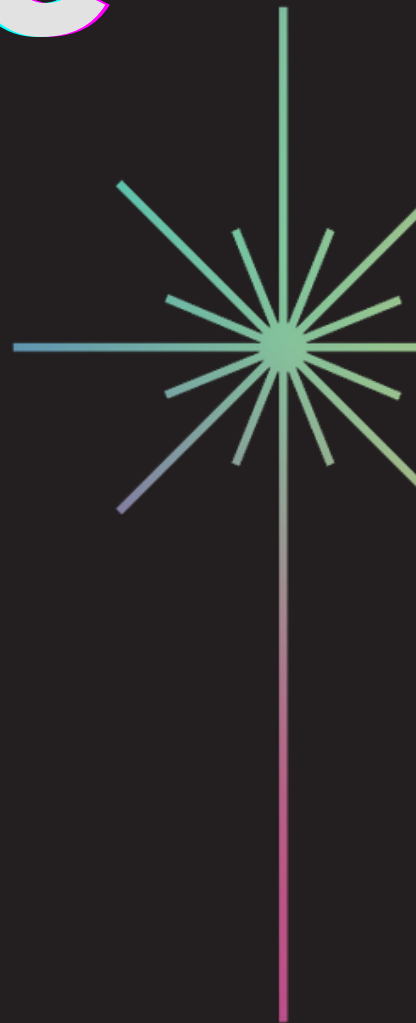
End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# Peace



## STUDY GUIDE

til Jesus  
comes

March 3

**2 Thessalonians 3:16-18**

**LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF THE SECOND COMING**



# Peace Till Jesus Comes

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

## Benediction

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

~~~

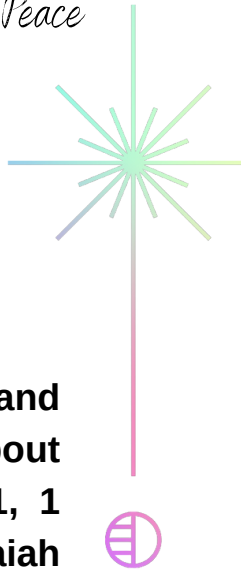
# Peace Till Jesus Comes

As Paul concludes his second letter to the Thessalonians, his blessing is one of peace. Why? If you recall the purpose and occasion for Paul's letters to this church, you will note that there are lingering fears and anxieties. Many of their concerns are understandable. The believers in Thessalonica faced active persecution and false teaching led to uncertainty regarding the return of Christ. His benediction is short and simple, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all" (2 Thess. 3:16).

Though concise, his statement contains no fewer than four powerful truths about peace that speak directly to their concerns as well as ours today. Peace is fundamentally anchored in Christ, who he is, what he has done, and what he will do. The world today is desperate for peace. Individuals on the edge of despair crave a sense of peace that only the Lord can provide, while countries at war search for solutions to international conflicts. But the world has largely lost sight of the only lasting source of peace, the Lord Jesus himself.

Join us Sunday as we meditate on the peace of God.

Ps Zach Mazrim



## Discussion Questions

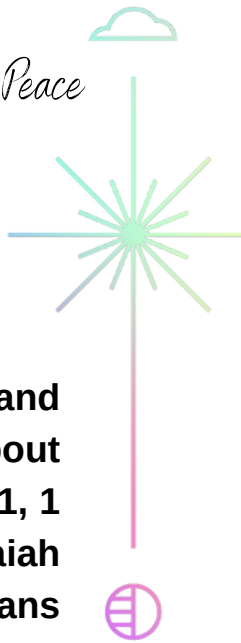
1. How would you define peace?
2. What is the Biblical concept of peace? Share the verses from OT and NT that support your opinion. (This is a great opportunity to learn about *shalom* and *eirēnē*. Take your time to study the verses: Genesis 34:21, 1 King 5:12, Psalm 85:8, 1 Samuel 25:6, Leviticus 26:6, John 14:27, Isaiah 32:17, Luke 2:14, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7, Matthew 5:9, Colossians 3:15, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 5:18)
2. Where is the most peaceful place you have been? Why was it peaceful to you?
3. Give an example of peace you have witnessed, either in personal or societal/communal life.
4. Do you resonate with any of the anxieties of the Thessalonian church (the return of Christ, persecution, fear of deception, concern over the enemy, doubt concerning work and the future? How have you combatted these anxieties?
5. Is there anything else robbing your peace in this season?
6. How does an absence of peace affect your life and relationships? Or how has someone else's lack of peace affected your relationship with them?
7. What are the most difficult challenges you face in *remaining* at peace?
8. What Godly rhythms do you practice allowing him to give you rest and peace?



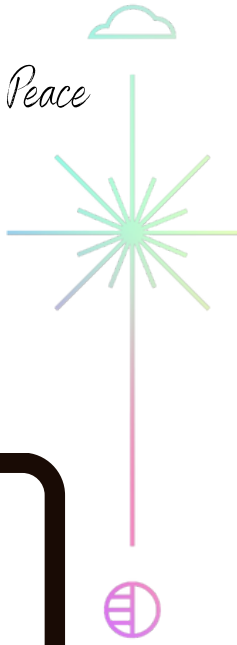
## Discussion Questions

9. How have you experienced the peace of God when going to him in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)?
10. Can a world without conflict truly exist, or is peace a continuous pursuit? What biblical support would you provide for your answer?
11. Does your answer to the above question lead you to hope or despair?
12. How does the biblical concept of peace ("shalom") differ from the modern understanding of the absence of war?
13. Share a personal experience or story related to being a peacemaker.
14. How would you support a nonbelieving friend who expresses anxiety over problems in life?
15. What other passages encourage Christians to seek peace or be at peace? What do you learn from these examples?
16. What is the difference between true peace knowing that Christ is returning and the false peace of resignation over the affairs of life?

**(TLDR) Recommended Discussion Questions:**



1. How would you define peace?
2. What is the Biblical concept of peace? Share the verses from OT and NT that support your opinion. (This is a great opportunity to learn about shalom and eirēnē. Take your time to study the verses: Genesis 34:21, 1 King 5:12, Psalm 85:8, 1 Samuel 25:6, Leviticus 26:6, John 14:27, Isaiah 32:17, Luke 2:14, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7, Matthew 5:9, Colossians 3:15, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 5:18)
4. Do you resonate with any of the anxieties of the Thessalonian church (the return of Christ, persecution, fear of deception, concern over the enemy, doubt concerning work and the future? How have you combatted these anxieties?
7. What are the most difficult challenges you face in *remaining* at peace?
9. How have you experienced the peace of God when going to him in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)?
10. Can a world without conflict truly exist, or is peace a continuous pursuit? What biblical support would you provide for your answer?
12. How does the biblical concept of peace ("shalom") differ from the modern understanding of the absence of war?
13. Share a personal experience or story related to being a peacemaker.
15. What other passages encourage Christians to seek peace or be at peace? What do you learn from these examples?
16. What is the difference between true peace knowing that Christ is returning and the false peace of resignation over the affairs of life?



## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports