



THESSALONIANS

BRIDGING FROM 1ST TO 2ND THESSALONIANS

The Apostle Paul (c. 1657), by Rembrandt

LEAP DAY

- What is a “Leap Year” and a “Leap Day” - Man’s desire to define and control time
- Leap years started with Julius Cesar
 - 46 BC, the Roman Emperor Julius Cesar and his advisers reinvented their calendar
 - each year would be 365 days and 6 hrs long.
 - Following the Egyptian Solar calendar to line up seasons
- Leap Years were adapted by a Pope
 - They were off by a whole 11 minutes and 14 seconds.
 - In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII took it on himself to propose the “Gregorian Calendar”
 - where the ‘leap year occurs every four years except for years evenly divisible by 100 and not 400’. Confused?
 - leap year 1600, 2000, 2400 but not 2100 – 76 years we skip leap year.

LEAP DAY - LEAP YEAR TRADITIONS

THE IRISH ORIGINS OF PROPOSING ON LEAP DAY

- The Irish - Batchelor's Day or Ladies Privilege
 - The story goes that [St. Brigid of Kildare](#), met Ireland's most famous patron saint, [St. Patrick](#) to bring up a serious problem. Wanted the blessing of the church for women to propose to their sweethearts who, for whatever reason, were dragging their heels!
 - St. Patrick established another tradition associated with Leap Year proposals. That should a man refuse a woman's proposal on Leap Day, he must compensate her with a gifts
- In Scotland, it is considered bad luck to be born on February 29th.
- In Greek lore it is rare for couples to marry on February 29th as it's believed that they would then be likely to end their marriage shortly after!



LEAP YEAR FACTS

- **Fun Facts**

- 4 million people in the world are leap-day babies
- Some cultures didn't have leap year on Feb 29th -- instead, February 24th occurred twice.

- **In our desire to manage and control time in the Digital age**

- Introduced the Leap Seconds – the Digital Age – Cesium Clocks – 1972
 - Inject a leap second in when the two clocks diverged by more than 0.9 seconds.

What does this have to do with Thessalonians?

- Rapture / Day of the Lord / Christ Second Coming - Only God the Father Knows the time.
- **--No One Knows That Day or Hour - Mark 13:32–37 (ESV)**
 - ³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”



THESSALONIANS

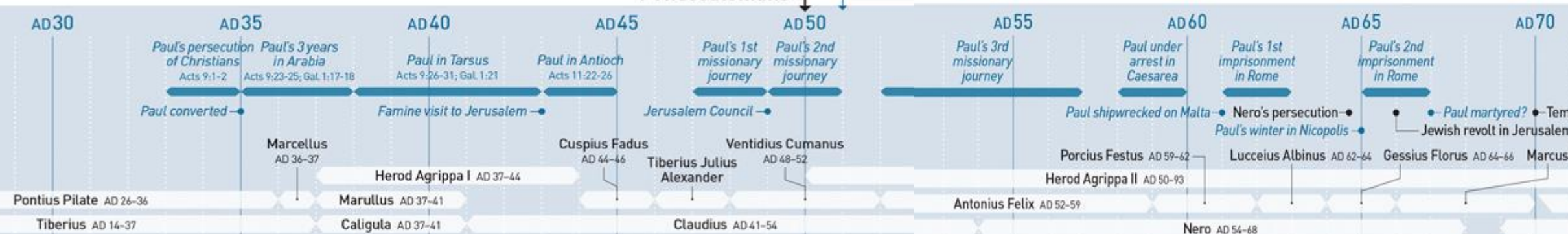
QUICK FACTS – REVIEW QUESTIONS

- When was it written?
 - Around AD 50, during Paul's second missionary journey.
- Where was it written?
 - In Corinth (province of Achaia) and sent to Thessalonica (province of Macedonia).
- Who wrote it?
 - Paul wrote the letter with Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy as co-authors.
- Why was it written?
 - To provide encouragement to believers to continue in faith, hope, and love as they endure hardship while waiting for the Lord's return.



1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians



MESSAGE

- I Thessalonians - Three key purposes in mind.
 1. To express his thanks to God for them (1:2; 2:13; 3:9)
 2. To explain why he had not yet visited them again (2:17-18)
 3. To correct doctrinal (3:10; 4:13; 5:1-11) and practical (4:1-12; 5:12-18) problems.

SYNOPSIS / PURPOSE

- 1 Thessalonians
 - expresses his thanks and **praise** for the Thessalonian believers (1:2-10).
 - **encourage** the Christians who were making good progress in their new faith (2:1-16).
 - **defend himself** against attacks by his enemies, specifically his Jewish opponents (2:1-16).
 - **Exhort** his readers to **stand firm** in persecution—and not return to paganism (2:17—3:13).
 - **encourage** his readers to continue growing in Christ (4:1-12; 5:16-24).
 - clarify the "**fate**" of Christians who die before the **Lord's return** (4:13-18)
 - **urge** his readers to watch for the Lord to return (5:1-11).
 - **deal** with certain aspects of **church life** (5:12-15).

THE BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE

SECTION	TURNING FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT	LIVING IN THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE
	(1:1–3:13)	(4:1–5:28)
PASSAGE	←Looking Back	Looking Ahead→
THEMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving • Remembering • Affirming • Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal concern • Comfort and relief
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastor before the flock • The flock's response to the pastor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual purity • Prophetic urgency
	Wrath ... Faith, Hope, Love ... Coming ... Encourage	
KEY TERMS	Imitator Labor	Sanctification Seize



The ruins of the *agora*, a Roman shopping center, in Thessalonica, built around the first century.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12–28 (ESV)

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS AND BLESSING

¹² We ask you, brothers, **to respect** those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and **to esteem** them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, ***admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.*** ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ ***Rejoice always,*** ¹⁷ ***pray without ceasing,*** ¹⁸ ***give thanks in all circumstances;*** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ ***Do not quench the Spirit.*** ²⁰ ***Do not despise prophecies,*** ²¹ ***but test everything; hold fast what is good.*** ²² ***Abstain from every form of evil.***

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

²⁵ Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷ I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

MESSAGE OF HOPE

- Paul's message to the Thessalonian church can be summarized in one word—"hope."
 - Paul's central emphasis: *in the tumult, chaos, confusion, and rough-and-tumble of life, you must trust God and God's future by moving forward in faith and faithfulness*
- *Paul's Faith / Hope / Love* - 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3 (ESV)
 - We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- *Application - Paul called the Thessalonians his hope, glory, and joy. That's affirmation!*
 - *Do you frequently affirm the people you love?*
 - *Do you strive to spend time with them, seek them out, send them your greetings, even drop them a note?*

APPLICATION

- First, with regard to our commitment to fellow Christians, Paul's words remind us that we must be ready to accept, support, and encourage one another in the family of God to excel in works of faith, in labor of love, and in perseverance of hope.
- Second, regarding our commitment to non-Christians, Paul's words inform us that we must live in such a way that our actions are evidence of the word of the living God for all those who are lost.
- Third, concerning our commitment to Christ, Paul's words urge us to be free of any and all entanglements that pull us away from the Savior.

• Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on 1 & 2 Thessalonians*, vol. 10, *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2016), 16–17.



2ND THESSALONIANS



TIMING / OCCASION FOR 2 THESSALONIANS

- The Thessalonians had made progress in their faith and love (1:3).
- They had remained firm under repeated outbreaks of persecution (1:4)
- Their distress about the death of their loved ones had been relieved by the teachings of the First Epistle.
- But their excitement relative to the second coming had been intensified.
- They were agitated by the view “that the day of the Lord is already here” (2 Thess. 2:2, Gr.).
- Thinking that they were already in “the day of the Lord” just preceding His return, they were looking for the immediate return of Christ.
- This expectancy of a speedy coming of the Lord had even caused some of them to give up their accustomed occupations.
- This leisure time had led some of them to become busybodies, interfering with those who wanted to work (3:10–12)



SYNOPSIS / PURPOSE

- *2 Thessalonians*
 - **encourage** to persevere in the face of continuing **persecution** (1:3-10).
 - **Clarify** the events/chronological order—**the day of the Lord**, to dispel false teaching (2:1-12).
 - **instruct** the church how to deal with **lazy Christians** in their midst (3:6-15).
- *The place/date of writing – (Salutation – list writers)*
 - *Corinth – last time Paul, Silas, and Timothy together*
 - *1st letter writing was AD 50 – 2nd letter writing was about the Winter of AD 51*

OUTLINE / THEMES

2 THESSALONIANS

- A. Salutation
- B. Encouragement in the face of suffering 1.3-12
 - A. Thanksgiving
 - B. Encouragement
- C. Day of the Lord / Mystery – Man of Lawlessness 2.1-17
 - A. Order of events
 - B. Comfort and Encouragement
- D. Exhortations for Future Growth 3.1-15
 - A. Prayer and Obedience
 - B. Paul's Example / Command to the Unruly
- E. Conclusion

THE BOOK OF 2 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE

106 SECTION	AFFIRMATION AMIDST AFFLICTION	EXPLANATION OF PROPHECY	CLARIFICATION REGARDING RESPONSE
PASSAGE	1:1–12	2:1–17	3:1–18
THEMES	<p>We ... give thanks ... for you.” (1:3)</p> <p>“We ourselves speak proudly of you.” (1:4)</p> <p>“We pray for you.” (1:11)</p>	<p>“Let no one ... deceive you.” (2:3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mystery of lawlessness • Restraint removed • Man of lawlessness • “So then, ... stand firm.” (2:15) 	<p>“Now we command you ...” (3:6)</p> <p>“If anyone does not obey ...” (3:14)</p> <p>“May the Lord ... grant you peace.” (3:16)</p>
	Persevering through affliction develops maturity.	Trusting amidst confusion produces stability.	Waiting with discipline cultivates responsibility.
	Tradition ... Establish		
KEY TERMS	<p>Tribulation</p> <p>Rest</p>	<p>Prevent</p> <p>Sanctification</p>	<p>Command</p> <p>Unruly</p>

MESSAGE

- 2 Thessalonians - Three main groups of people are addressed in this epistle:
 1. Persecutors of the church (chapter 1)
 2. False teachers (chapter 2)
 3. Idle church members (chapter 3).

APPLICATION

- Faith and Hope, Not Fear and Fretting
- Unity in Ministry
- Working for the Kingdom
 - First, *join the work of the church through prayer.*
 - Second, *join the work of the church through giving.*
 - Third, *join the work of the church through serving.*
- ***So what are you waiting for? The Second Coming? Join in on the work of your church through persistent prayer, consistent giving, and committed involvement in serving. Start today!***