

1&2 THESSALONIANS MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S RETURN

A. Author: Paul

B. Background: Paul, with Silas and Timothy, first went to Thessalonica on the second missionary journey. The Jews were losing converts to the message of the Gospel so they accused a local brother Jason of harboring traitors to Caesar. Jason and the others with him apparently pledged that the missionaries would leave to prevent them from being arrested. After departing to Athens Paul sent Timothy back to encourage the new believers and report back to him regarding the state of the church. Timothy met Paul in Corinth where the two letters were written by Paul to the Thessalonians believers.

C. Theme: Balancing daily church life with the anticipated return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Outline:

I THESSALONIANS "THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH"

- A. Paul reminds the church of its beginnings
 - 1.) Its birth (chapter 1)
 - 2.) Its nurturing (chapter 2)
 - 3.) Its establishment (chapter 3)
- B. Paul encourages the church concerning its walk
 - 1.) In holiness (chapter 4:1-8)
 - 2.) In harmony (chapter 4:9-10)
 - 3.) In honesty (chapter 4:11-12)
 - 4.) In hope (chapter 4:13-5:11)
 - 4.) In helpfulness (chapter 5:12-28)

II THESSALONIANS "THE LORD'S RETURN"

- A. Encourages believers during persecution
 - 1.) Through praise (chapter 1:1-4)
 - 2.) Through promise (chapter 1:5-10)
 - 3.) Through prayer (chapter 1:11-12)
- B. Enlightens believers through its teaching
 - 1.) On how the man of sin appears (chapter 2:1-7)
 - 2.) On how the Son of God appears (chapter 2:8-12)
 - 3.) On how the child of God should live (chapter 2:13-17)
- C. Enables believers to live out their Christian lives
 - 1.) By obeying God's Word (chapter 3:1-6)
 - 2.) By following Godly examples (chapter 3:7-9)
 - 3.) By disciplining the unruly (chapter 3:10-15)
 - 4.) By living peaceably through His presence (chapter 3:16-18)

E. Real Life Lessons from I & II Thessalonians:

- God's church can be planted even in the midst of opposition
- We should strive to encourage one another as we look forward to the return of Christ
- Believers have a responsibility to biblically hold one another accountable
- The church should live daily with expectancy regarding the return of Christ, not sit by idly disrupting the fellowship among believers