**A Study Outline of 2 Thessalonians**

**Introduction**

* Chapter 1 – Praise and reassurance.
* Chapter 2 – Warning of the “man of sin” and the apostasy of the church.
* Chapter 3 – Requests and commands.

**Chapter 1**

1:1-5 – Paul praises the Christians for their growing faith (v. 3) and abounding love (v. 3).

* The character of this church was known because of their persecution.
* Persecution can come in many forms: nicknames, taunts, cold looks, social ostracism, misrepresentations or deliberate lies, abusive or evil speech, job loss, imprisonment, or death.
* Romans 12:17-21.

1:6-10 – Paul reassures them that God will repay those who mistreat His children.

* Verse 6 shows that this is the right thing for Him to do.
* Verse 7 reassures the Christians that a rest is waiting for them when the Lord returns.
* Verses 8-9 are very descriptive of the punishment that awaits the ungodly. “Know” in verse 8 is a word that means, “to pay attention to, to be concerned with.”
* The Christian is identified as a saint and a believer in verse 10.

1:11-12 – The Christian can be deemed worthy by God if he continues to glorify Him.

**Chapter 2**

2:1-5 – The timing of the return of Christ.

* There were many who believed that Christ was going to return during their lifetime.
* Paul reassures them that He will not return until:
	+ The falling away (deviation, apostasy) occurs.
	+ The man of sin is revealed.
* Description of the man of sin:
	+ Connected with the apostasy.
	+ Opposes God.
	+ Exalts himself above God.
	+ Sits in the temple (church) as God.
	+ Lawless one (v. 8). One who violates the law of God.
	+ Deceives people with power, signs, and lying wonders (v.9-10).
	+ Will be present until the Lord’s bright coming (v. 8).
* People would be deceived and believe a lie because “they did not receive the love of the truth” and “did not believe the truth.” If we refuse to believe God’s truth, we might believe anything we’re told.

2:13-17 – Paul was thankful for his brethren.

* Their “choosing” occurred through sanctification, belief, and a calling (v. 13-14).
* Traditions (v. 15) are not necessarily bad. There are traditions of men (Matt. 15; Mk. 7) and there are traditions that have been handed down to us by the apostles (3:6).

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**Chapter 3**

3:1-5 – Paul requests the prayers of the church.

* He wants the word of God to run freely.
* He wants the word of God to be glorified.
* He wants to be delivered from unreasonable (harmful, unbecoming) and wicked men.
* He does not pray for a life of ease and wealth, but for the furtherance of the gospel.
* Can other Christians be confident in you and me that we will do the things we are commanded (v. 4)?

3:6-12 – Work quietly and mind your own business.

* There are some Christians who walk “disorderly.” This is a military term that means to walk out of rank or step.
* What is to be withdrawn from the Christian who is walking disorderly?
* Paul conducted himself in a particular way so that he could show them what they should be doing (v. 9). This is what a good mentor does.
* Our society has turned verse 11 to read, “If any man does not want to work, he can wait on the government to feed him.”
* Brother Guy N. Woods said of verse 11, “Some have no business, but are busy with everybody’s business.”
* Verse 12 – To work and mind your own business is a command from an inspired apostle!

3:13-18 – Final words.

* On verse 13 David Lipscomb wrote, “While Paul commands all who are able to eat their own bread, be quiet, and not to meddle, he cautions them not to cease to render assistance to the needy, to do good to all, as the opportunity affords.”
* Verse 14 explains further what it means to “withdraw” from a brother who is walking disorderly.
* 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.
* The word for “ashamed” literally means, “to invert, to cause one to reflect.” If we treat people who are living in sin, they will not see the need to change.
* To “admonish” means, “to exhort, to correct.”

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