NEW TESTAMENT · PAUL'S LETTERS · BOOK 53 OF 66

2 Thessalonians

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil (3:3)

3	Paul	c. A.D. 51	Stand Fast
Chapters, 47 Verses	With Silas and Timothy	From Corinth	(2:15)

STRUCTURE

The Book in Three Parts

Each chapter answers one need: comfort for the persecuted (1), correction for the confused (2) and a call to work for the idle (3).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 47 verses.

I 1 · 12 verses

Encouragement

God is righteous; Christ will be revealed from heaven.

II 2 · 17 verses

The Day of the Lord

The falling away and the man of sin come first.

III 3 · 18 verses

Pray and Work

The Lord is faithful; be not weary in well doing.

BACKGROUND

Why Paul Wrote Again

1 1:4

Persecution

They were still enduring "persecutions and tribulations."

2 2:2

Confusion

A false report, as if by letter from Paul, said the day of Christ had come.

3 3:11

Idleness

Some were "working not at all, but are busybodies."

Paul signs the letter himself, "which is the token in every epistle" (3:17), so they could tell a real letter from a false one.

TWO LETTERS

1 and 2 Thessalonians Compared

1 THESSALONIANS	2 THESSALONIANS
Comfort: the dead in Christ will rise 4:13–18	**Correction: the day has not yet come** 2:1–3
The Lord comes as a thief in the night 5:2	**Certain things must happen first** 2:3–8
Work with your own hands 4:11	**If any would not work, neither should he eat** 3:10
Faith, love and hope 1:3	**Faith groweth, charity aboundeth** 1:3

2 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 3

God’s Judgment, the Day of the Lord and the Man of Sin

CHAPTER 1

God’s Righteous Judgment

Their suffering was not a sign God had forgotten them. He will put all things right when Christ is revealed.

1:6–7 · FOR THE TROUBLED

Rest

“To you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven.”

1:8–9 · FOR THE DISOBEDIENT

Everlasting Destruction

On those who know not God and obey not the gospel, “from the presence of the Lord.”

> *“When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe”*
>
> 2 Thessalonians 1:10 (KJV)

CHAPTER 2:1–5

The Day of the Lord

“Let no man deceive you by any means” (2:3). Paul lists what must happen before that day.

1 2:3

A Falling Away

A great rebellion or departure from the truth.

2 2:3–4

The Man of Sin Revealed

The son of perdition, who exalts himself above all that is called God.

3 2:8

The Lord Destroys Him

With the spirit of His mouth and the brightness of His coming.

CHAPTER 2:3–12

The Man of Sin

2:4

Exalts Himself

He “opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God … shewing himself that he is God.”

2:6–7

Held Back for Now

“He who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.” (“Let” means “hinder.”)

2:9

Lying Wonders

His coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.

2:10

Deceiving the Perishing

“Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

The Lord “shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming” (2:8).

2 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 3

Chosen, Work and Well Doing, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 2:13–17

Chosen, Called and Comforted

> *“God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”*
>
> 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV)

2:14

Called

By the gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2:15

Stand Fast

Hold the traditions taught by word or by epistle.

2:16

Comforted

“Everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.”

CHAPTER 3

Work and Well Doing

3:3

“But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.”

3:5

“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.”

3:10

“if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

3:13

“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”

2 THESSALONIANS 3:15–16

As a Brother

Discipline in the church is to restore, not to destroy: “Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means.”

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

God’s Justice

He will repay and give rest.

1:5–7

Christ Revealed

Coming in glory with His mighty angels.

1:7–10

Not Deceived

The day of the Lord has not yet come.

2:1–3

Chosen to Salvation

Called to obtain Christ’s glory.

2:13–14

The Lord Is Faithful

He will establish and keep you.

3:3

Faithful Work

Quiet work and well doing.

3:10–13

KEY VERSE

“But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.”

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (KJV)