



1 THESSALONIANS

Holiness Love Future Hope

FOLLOWING JESUS PRODUCES A COUNTER-CULTURAL (HOLY) WAY OF LIFE...

...THAT RESPONDS TO HOSTILITY WITH **LOVE** & GENEROSITY.

...THAT IS MOTIVATED BY **HOPE** IN THE COMING KINGDOM OF JESUS.

1-3 A CELEBRATION OF FAITHFULNESS

1:6-10 THE THESSALONIANS' CONVERSION

1:1-5 THANKSGIVING PRAYER

I THANK GOD FOR YOUR FAITH, LOVE, and HOPE!

2:13-16 THEIR COMMON PERSECUTION

THEY TURNED AWAY FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING & TRUE GOD, AND ARE WAITING FOR THE COMING OF GOD'S SON FROM HEAVEN. (1:9-10)

2:1-12 PAUL'S MISSION IN THESSALONICA

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS & LOVING SERVICE.

3:11-13 PRAYER FOR ENDURANCE

MAY GOD INCREASE YOUR LOVE, HOLINESS, & HOPE!

4-5 A CHALLENGE TO GROW

4:1-8 HOLINESS & SEXUAL PURITY

FOLLOWING JESUS TEACHINGS ON SEX & MARRIAGE (MATTHEW 5:27-32, 19:1-12)

4:13-18 FUTURE HOPE OF JESUS' RETURN

WHAT'S THEIR FATE WHEN JESUS RETURNS?

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE MESSIAH WILL RISE. (4:16)

PEACE & SECURITY!

4:9-12 COMMITMENT TO LOVE & SERVICE

WORKING HARD SO THAT YOU CAN BE GENEROUS TO OTHERS (see 2 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13)

5:1-11 THIS HOPE SHOULD MOTIVATE BEAUFULNESS

THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BRING THEIR SUDDEN RUIN... (5:2-3)

...SO LIVE IN THE PRESENT AS IF THAT DAY IS ALREADY HERE. (5:4)

5:23-26 PRAYER OF HOPE

MAY GOD KEEP YOU HOLY AS YOU AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF JESUS.

THEIR SUFFERING IS A WAY OF PARTICIPATING IN THE STORY OF JESUS.

2:17-3:10 PAUL'S ANGUISH...

THE THESSALONIANS ARE SUFFERING!

SEND TIMOTHY!

I'M ON IT!

...& TIMOTHY'S DISCOVERY

WE'RE GOING STRONG!

AND WE MISS PAUL!

created by the Bible Project



2 THESSALONIANS

BELIEF IN JESUS' RETURN & HOPE FOR FINAL JUSTICE

NOT SPECULATION ABOUT TIMELINES



INSPIRED HOPE & FAITHFULNESS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

WHAT YOU HOPE FOR SHAPES WHAT YOU LIVE FOR.

1 HOPE DESPITE PERSECUTION

1:1-3

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

I THANK GOD FOR YOUR FAITH, Love, and ENDURANCE.

PERSECUTION HAS INTENSIFIED

SUFFERING = PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S KINGDOM

JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOW THEIR VICTORY THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE & ENDURANCE

THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY

"THEY WILL BE BANISHED AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD & FROM THE GLORY OF HIS POWER." (1:9)

JESUS RETURN = FINAL JUSTICE

1:11-12

MAY THE LORD JESUS BE HONORED THROUGH YOU.

2 THE DAY OF THE LORD

PAUL SAYS: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS **ALREADY** UPON US!!

GOD'S FINAL JUSTICE ON EVIL

DID JESUS COME "LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT?" (SEE 1 THESSALONIANS 5:2)

JESUS HAS ABANDONED US!!!!

I NEVER SAID THAT!

REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU...

...THE WORLD WILL KEEP PRODUCING RULERS WHO REBEL & EXALT THEMSELVES ABOVE GOD...

"THE REBEL"

WILL BREAK VIOLENCE & HAVOC ON GOD'S WORLD...

BUT NOT FOREVER...

JESUS WILL CONFRONT THE REBEL... & DELIVER HIS PEOPLE.

THE POINT:

- IS NOT TO FUEL APOCALYPTIC SPECULATION
- IS TO COMFORT THE THESSALONIANS & RECALL JESUS' TEACHINGS (SEE MARK 13)

THE EVENTS LEADING TO JESUS' RETURN WILL BE **OBVIOUS!** YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SCARED.

PHEW!

2:16-17

MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

3 CHALLENGE TO THE "IDLE"

NOT LAZY, BUT IRRESPONSIBLE & REFUSING TO WORK (SEE 1 THESSALONIANS 4:10-12, 5:14)

POSSIBLE:

JESUS COULD RETURN AT ANY MOMENT!

WHY WORK? I QUIT!

MORE LIKELY:

ROMAN "PATRONAGE"

"CLIENTS" (like personal assistants)

FETCH ME SIX EGGS.

FETCH ME SIX PROSTITUTES. !?

"SOME OF YOU ARE LEADING A DISORDERED LIFE, NOT WORKING, BUT MEDDLING IN THE BUSINESS OF OTHERS." (5:11)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE!

IMITATING JESUS' SELF-GIVING LOVE

PROVIDING FOR HIMSELF TO SERVE OTHERS FREE OF CHARGE

THE IDEAL:

WORKING HARD SO THEIR LIVES CAN BENEFIT OTHERS

3:16-18

MAY THE LORD OF PEACE GRANT YOU PEACE

created by the Bible Project