
INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

DEDUCTIVE LESSON SIX

2 Thessalonians 1

Day One: Verses 1–2

The second epistle to the Thessalonian church begins with the same greeting as the first, and comes from the same three men—Paul, Silvanus (or Silas), and Timothy. In the second verse we find the same two words that are found in each of Paul's letters: grace and peace. Today we will look closer at these two important words.

1. Define grace, in your own words.

2. Now, look up grace in a dictionary or other reference. (You will probably find several definitions. Choose the ones that are most conducive to this study.)

3. What do the following verses have to say about grace?

2 Corinthians 8:9

Romans 1:5; 3:24

Proverbs 22:11

John 1:14

4. Grace was obviously a very relevant topic to Paul. What did he say in 1 Corinthians 15:10?

5. Define peace in your own words.

6. Now look it up in a dictionary or other reference. Peace is...

7. What do these verses say about peace?

Isaiah 26:3

Ephesians 2:14

Day Three: Verses 3–10

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3–10.

1. Verses 6–10 talk about the day of the Lord, a subject we looked into last week. What do these verses say will happen in the day of the Lord?

Eschatology is the study of what will happen in the end times. It is taken from the Greek words *eschatos* (last) and *logos* (study), so it is the study of last things.ⁱ In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke at length about these last things—leading up to and including the time period known as the day of the Lord. As you read through Matthew 24, answer the following questions.

2. What prompted Jesus' talk about the end times (verses 1–3)?

3. What did Jesus say would happen before the end comes, in verses 4–7?

4. How did He label these things, in verse 8?

5. Verses 9–12 speak about what people will do and how they will treat one another. What do they say?

6. God's mercy and forbearance are revealed in verse 14. What does this verse reveal?

7. The “abomination of desolation” spoken of in verse 15 is an act of the antichrist prophesied of in Daniel 9:27 and 12:11. We will look closer at the topic of the antichrist in the next chapter. For now, suffice it to say that the abomination of desolation can be summarized as an event in which the antichrist will defy and desecrate that which is holy, break his covenant of false peace, and show his true colors as an evil and violent instrument of the devil. How do verses 16–22 describe the great tribulation that follows this event?

8. What do verses 24–27 say about the coming of false christs, and the coming of the true Christ?

9. What will happen after the Great Tribulation (verses 29–31)?

10. What do verses 32–36 say about the timing of these events?

11. Summarize the main points of verses 37–51.

Scripture Memory: Fill in the blanks from memory.

“In everything give _____; for this is the _____ of God in _____ _____ for you.”
_____ 5:_____

Day Four: Verse 7

Reread 2 Thessalonians 1:1–10, for review.

1. Verse 7 says that the Lord will give rest to those who are troubled. What invitation did Jesus give in Matthew 11:28?

2. What example did God give us in Genesis 2:1–2?

3. What did Isaiah prophesy in Isaiah 11:10?

4. As Christians, we have tasted of the rest that Jesus gives, but we will not drink fully of His divine rest until we reach Heaven. In the end, God will create a new heaven and a new earth, in which the New Jerusalem will be the capital. Read about the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:1–22:6. Write down the words or phrases that give you a sense of anticipation for this place of rest.

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

"In _____ give _____; for this is the _____ of _____ in _____
for you." _____:_____

Day Five: Verses 11–12

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12.

1. What do Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy pray for the Thessalonian church, in verses 11–12?

2. “That the name of Jesus Christ may be glorified in you” (2 Thessalonians 1:12). The name Jesus means “the Lord saves.” His name describes the essence of his nature—Jesus is salvation. What does Matthew 1:20–21 say about the naming of Jesus?

3. What do Acts 4:10 and 12 say about the name of Jesus?

4. What are some of the other names of Jesus found in Scripture? Draw from your own memory, or use these references. (Isaiah 9:6; Mark 2:28, 5:7, 14:14, 15:2; Luke 8:24; John 1:29, 6:48, 10:11, 14:6, 15:1; Hebrews 4:14; 1 Peter 2:6; Revelation 1:8, 5:5, 22:16)

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Scripture Memory: Write this week’s Scripture Memory verse completely from memory.

“ _____
_____.” _____ : _____

Day Six: Personal Application

1. "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other" (2 Thessalonians 1:3). Think of a brother whose faith is growing exceedingly, or whose love abounds toward others. Write down his name or initials and then pray for him by name, thanking God "as is fitting."

2. Psalm 122:6–7 says, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.'" Spend a few moments now praying for the peace of Israel, and God's city, Jerusalem.

3. Go back to Day Three, in which you studied Matthew 24, about the last days' events. Skim over your answers, and just write down what comes to mind when you think about how those events apply to your personal life now.

4. On Day Four we read Revelation 21 and 22, in which the New Jerusalem was described. In doing so, it is only natural for a sense of longing and anticipation for our ultimate place of rest—in the eternal presence of our Lord. We are all homesick for a home we have not yet seen. As John himself said, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20). Write a brief prayer in which you beckon the Lord to come and set things right, to establish His kingdom, and to give you true and everlasting rest.

5. On Day Five we looked at the names of Jesus. Which of His names holds the most significance for you at this time in your life, and why?
