

How to Live *in the* Last Days

Paul's Second Letter to the Church at Thessalonica

Why study this letter now?

Because studying 2 Thessalonians will...

1. teach us how to live in the last days.
2. equip us for persecution.
3. strengthen our unity as a church.

Quick Facts: The Thessalonian Church

1. These two letters were written around ad 51.
2. Paul planted the church about ad 50.
3. The history of the church plant is recorded in Acts 17.
4. The church was persecution from its inception.

Scripture Reading

2 THESSALONIANS 1

Paul's Main Point in 2 Thessalonians 1

In order to endure in faith and grow in love, afflicted Christians must fix their hope on God's soon-coming justice at the appearing of Jesus.

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- C. Jesus will come “inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God” (verses 8-9).

“Would a loving God ever banish people to eternal destruction?”

1. Does God owe heaven to anyone?
2. Will God condemn anyone who has an excuse?
3. Will God banish anyone who desires to live with him?
4. Will God’s punishment be greater than the crime?
5. Will those in hell want to repent to get out?
6. Is punishment less humanitarian than rehabilitation?
7. Is a world with justice a despicable world?
8. Does God want people to go to hell?

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- B. Jesus will come “with mighty angels in flaming fire” (verses 7-8).
- C. Jesus will come “inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God” (verses 8-9).
- D. “On that day” Jesus will be “glorified in his saints” (verse 10).

“When believers appear on that day so pure, lovely, and Christlike; when their present glory is contrasted with their first condition on earth-- [which was] so guilty, so frail, so defiled, and so helpless; when they call to mind by what a work they have been saved—His cross and passion; and by what a simple instrumentality—a child's trust in the Son of God; then He who has done such great things for them will command their admiration.”

— John Eadie

II. How should this hope affect us?

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II. How should this hope affect us?

- A. To be glorified on that day, you must personally believe the gospel message.
- B. If you're going to be glorified on that day, you have a calling to live worthy of.

“It gradually dawned on me that the Day of Christ would be just that . . . the Day of Christ, not the day of Joni. Glorified hands and feet, as well as reunions with loved ones, began to look more like fringe benefits to the honor or simply being on the invitation list to the coronation party. . . . It will be Jesus’ Day.”

“Suffering is no failure of God's plan. . . . It is meant to be redeemed.”

— Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven, Your Real Home*