



## February 2020 – Education Month

# 1 & 2 Thessalonians - Reading Plan

*Author: Paul*

*Theme: The Return of the Lord Jesus - Indicators and Lifestyle in the Meanwhile*

*Date: About A.D. 50*

*Key Words: Faith, Love, Hope, Day of the Lord*

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>1 Thess 1:1-5</b>	<b>1:6-10</b>	<b>2:1-5</b>	<b>2:6-10</b>	<b>2:11-16</b>	<b>2:17-20</b>	<b>3:1-5</b>
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>3:6-10</b>	<b>3:11-13</b>	<b>4:1-8</b>	<b>4:9-12</b>	<b>4:13-18</b>	<b>5:1-4</b>	<b>5:5-7</b>
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>5:8-13</b>	<b>5:14-18</b>	<b>5:19-22</b>	<b>5:23-28</b>	<b>2 Thess 1:1-8</b>	<b>1:9-12</b>	<b>2:1-4</b>
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>2:5-7</b>	<b>2:8-12</b>	<b>2:13-17</b>	<b>3:1-2</b>	<b>3:3-5</b>	<b>3:6-10</b>	<b>3:11-15</b>
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March					
<b>3:16-18</b>	<b>Memory Challenge - 1 Thess 5:1 - 11</b>					

## 1 & 2 Thessalonians – Sunday School Commentary and Bible Study

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 10:30 am to 11:15 am

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30 pm

# The First and Second Epistles of Paul to the Thessalonians

## Occasion and Purpose

During his brief ministry in Athens, Paul was deeply concerned with the state of affairs within the infant church at Thessalonica. He had tried to return twice earlier, but Satan hindered (1 Thess 2:18). So when he could no longer endure the uncertainty nor conclusively plan a visit, he sent Timothy back to the church to investigate its progress (1 Thess 3:1-2) and was relieved to learn of their spiritual health.

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to round out the proper way to understand the return of the Lord. That day, he clarifies, will not occur until certain events take place. Frequently in the Thessalonian letters he reminds his readers to continue in the things he earlier taught (1 Thess 2:11-12; 3:4; 4:2; 2 Thess 2:5, 15; 3:4, 6, 10, 14). Already in these letters, probably the earliest of the New Testament books to be written, a body of fixed Christian beliefs is developing.

## Personal Application

Scripture presents both signs and suddenness as descriptions of the Lord's return. That may seem contradictory. But alert Christians observe the signs and know that the "mystery of lawlessness" is perennial. They avoid date-setting, leaving the times and the seasons in the hands of the Lord of history (1 Thess 5:1). Yet they live expectantly, knowing that whether they live or die they are the Lord's (Rom 14:8; 1 Thess 5:10).

Before novel teachings that originated with charismatic prophecy are adopted, they should be tested (1 Thess 5:19-20). It is sobering that even the Man of Sin, the Antichrist, will possess miraculous powers. Miracles, surprisingly, are never a sufficient ground for faith (Matt 7:21-23); John 2:23-25); they can be imitated. But the enduring love of God, which is poured out in the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5), continues into eternity even after charismatic gifts have passed away (1 Cor 13:8-13). Love, then, is the way believers experience eternity within time.

**MEMORY CHALLENGE** – to recite on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020**1 Thessalonians 5:1 - 11 (NKJV)*****The Day of the Lord***

*<sup>1</sup> But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*

*<sup>3</sup> For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*

*<sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.*

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*