

Paul Writes 2 Thessalonians



When: On 2nd journey [A.D. 51-52]
From Where: Corinth (Acts 18:11)

Synopsis

- More than likely, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica with the 1st letter
- Timothy returned to report a favorable reception of the epistle as well as some problems
- A fraudulent letter re: the second coming of Christ had come to Thessalonica, bearing Paul's name (2:1-3a)
- There was some misunderstanding re: the Lord's second coming (2:3b-12)
- Some of the brethren were leading disorderly & lazy lives, not even working (3:7-15)
- Some believe this letter was written only months (*maybe even weeks*) after the first one; therefore, it is to be viewed as a "follow-up" letter

Outline

Paul commends the brethren for their faithfulness (1:3-12)

- He is thankful for their continued growth and love for one another
- He is thankful for their faithfulness amidst continuing opposition and troubles
- He reminds them of how God will eventually deal with both the "troubled" and the "troublers"

Paul addresses the issue of the second coming of Christ (2:1-12)

- He encourages them not to worry that His coming had already taken place, as had been supposedly taught by him => *i.e. the fake letter* (v. 2)
 - To have missed this Day would have totally upset their own faith, caused them to doubt why they had lived the way Paul had instructed, and to begin worrying again about their deceased loved ones (cp. 1 Thess. 4:13-18)
- He states this Day will not come until "the apostasy comes first" and the "man of lawlessness" is revealed
 - "Apostasy" is not revealed...many have speculated (*papacy, emperor worship*)
 - "Man of lawlessness" also not revealed...speculations are pope, Caesar
- He had warned them of this while he was with them (v. 5)
- He warns the only way to avoid the "apostasy" is to not believe lies, but to love truth
- God will allow man to believe lies, face the consequences of such actions (vv. 10-12)

