



EPISODE 3: THESSALONIANS JAN 24/25

<u>I.</u> <u>CONTEXT (FROM THE ESV STUDY BIBLE)</u>				
<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Place of Writing</u>
1 Thessalonians	Paul	49–51	Church in Thessalonica	Corinth
2 Thessalonians	Paul	49–51	Church in Thessalonica	Corinth

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

- a. I Thessalonians: Paul's purposes included expressing gratitude for the Thessalonian's faithfulness, addressing misunderstandings about Christ's return, and providing guidance on Christian living and the importance of maintaining a strong faith despite challenges.
- b. II Thessalonians: Paul wrote Second Thessalonians to address concerns and correct misconceptions that arose after his first letter. He clarified aspects related to the second coming of Christ, warned against false teachings, and encouraged believers to stand firm in their faith.

III. WHAT IS PERSONAL?

- a. **Paul's Ministry to the Thessalonians**--1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 (ESV)
- b. **Paul the Bi-vocational pastor** (2:9-12)

IV. WHAT IS POWERFUL (DOCTRINE)?

1 Thessalonians

1. The wrath of God comes on those who reject the gospel.	2:16; 5:3
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2. Jesus' death and resurrection are the basis for the Christian's hope.	4:14; 5:10
3. Christians are destined not for wrath but for salvation at Jesus' coming.	1:10; 5:4, 9
4. Christians who die will participate fully in the second coming.	4:14–17; 5:10
5. Those who respond to the gospel have been elected by God in prehistory and called by God, and they continue to be called by God throughout their earthly lives.	1:4; 2:12; 4:7; 5:9, 24
6. Christians should live lives of comprehensive holiness.	3:13; 4:3–8; 5:23
7. Christians must never shirk their responsibility to work.	4:9–12; 5:14
8. The authenticity of the gospel is confirmed by the integrity of its preachers.	1:5; 2:1–12
9. Joy, especially in suffering, is a mark of the Christian.	1:6; 5:16
10. Christians experience the realities of the prophesied new covenant.	4:8–9
11. Faith, hope, and love are essential and universal traits of the Christian.	1:2–3; 5:8

- a. The theological theme of First Thessalonians revolves around **ESCHATOLOGY**, emphasizing the second coming of Christ and addressing the believers' hope, conduct, and perseverance in light of this future event.
- i. **Personal Eschatology**—(4:13-14).
 - ii. **Cosmic Eschatology**
 1. The Return of Christ (4:15-18).
 2. The Resurrection of the Dead (4:16) *And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

II Thessalonians

1. God's righteous judgment will be fully manifest when Jesus returns. At that time unbelievers will be condemned and believers will be saved.	1:5–10; 2:9–14
2. Christians will share Christ's glory.	1:10, 12; 2:14
3. The lawless one's revelation and humanity's final rebellion are prerequisites for Jesus' second coming.	2:3–4, 9–12
4. The lawless one will deceive all those who have rejected the gospel, guaranteeing their condemnation when Jesus returns.	2:3, 6–12
5. Christians must not exploit the charity of fellow Christians.	3:6-15

Crossway Bibles. (2008). *The ESV Study Bible* (p. 2315). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- b. The theological theme of Second Thessalonians also centers on eschatology, focusing on the return of Christ. It delves into issues related to the Day of the Lord, encouraging believers to stand firm in their faith amid challenges and false teachings.

- i. **The Judgement at Christ's Coming** (2 Thessalonians 1:5–10)
- ii. **The Rebellion and The Man of Lawlessness** (= Antichrist) 2 Thess 2:1-12)

V. WHAT IS PROBLEMATIC (CONTROVERSIAL)?

- a. **The Rapture?** (4:17-18)

VI. WHAT IS POETIC (THE RHETORICIAN-- JUST BEAUTIFUL)?

- a. **The Coming of the Lord**--1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (ESV)
- b. **People of the light:** 1 Thessalonians 5:4–8 (MSG): *But friends, you're not in the dark, so how could you be taken off guard by any of this? You're sons of Light, daughters of Day. We live under wide open skies and know where we stand. So let's not sleepwalk through life like those others. Let's keep our eyes open and be smart. People sleep at night and get drunk at night. But not us! Since we're creatures of Day, let's act like it. Walk out into the daylight sober, dressed up in faith, love, and the hope of salvation.*
- c. **Paul's Benediction** (*Blessing*--Captures the Theology of the Letter) —
1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (ESV)
- d. **Stand Firm**-- 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17 (ESV)

VII. WHAT IS PRACTICAL?

- a. **Travel Plans and Issues**-- 1 Thessalonians 2:17–3:13 (ESV)
- b. **Timothy's Encouraging Report**-- 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (ESV)

VIII. WHAT IS PRAYERFUL (THE PART HE PRAYS TO GOD)?

- a. **1 Thessalonians 3:11–13** (ESV)
- b. **1 Thessalonians 5:28** (ESV): *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*
- c. **That Jesus will make you worthy**-- 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 (ESV)
- d. **Pray for us**-- 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5 (ESV)

IX. PASTORAL SUMMARY

- a. **Encouragement and Thanksgiving** (1 Thessalonians 1-3)
- b. 1 Thessalonians 2:13–16 (ESV)
- c. **Be Pure and disciplined Personally** (4:1-5)
- d. **Treat One another carefully and well** (4:6-12)
- e. The Lord is coming so **Be Ready, Stay Busy, and keep the faith**— we don't know when Christ will return (but they were expecting it soon). Don't get slack. Don't be lazy. Don't get complacent.
- f. II Thessalonians: Paul urged them not to become "shaken in mind or alarmed," fearing that "the day of the Lord" (2:2) had already come. Second, he admonished them not to be idle, commanding them that, "If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat" (3:10).
 - i. **Respect Your Leaders**-- 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (ESV)
 - ii. **Be at Peace Among Yourselves**-- 1 Thessalonians 5:13 (ESV)
 - iii. **Hold One Another Accountable**-- 1 Thessalonians 5:14–15 (ESV)--
(Bob's Benediction)

- iv. **Spiritual Guidance:** Worship, Prayer, Test the Spirits—
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–22 (ESV)
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (ESV)
- v. **Warning Against Idleness- Don't be Idle--** 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15 (ESV)