

Thursday

- Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8, 11 then read today's passage. What does Paul want prayer for?
2. How does he describe those who do not have faith?
3. God's faithfulness is clearly pivotal to Paul's understanding. What does that knowledge produce in him?

PONDER

How are evil and faithlessness related? Why does Paul pray for the Thessalonians' hearts to be directed into Christ's perseverance (v. 5)?

PRAYER IDEAS

Pray that the Lord's message might spread and be honoured amongst us, and that you too might display God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Friday

- Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14, then today's passage. What model did Paul want to give to the Thessalonians?
2. What right was he therefore giving up (1 Thessalonians 2:6-7)?
3. What is the problem with idleness?
4. What weight does Paul put on his words?

POINTER

Guilt is an overwhelming emotion. It is important to see the tense of the verb in 3:10. It does not say 'if anyone does not work, let him not eat' but "if anyone is not willing to work". The command is about willingness to work, not inability. In our society where unemployment is a big problem, we must ensure that we are saying the right things to our brothers and sisters, and ourselves, when we cannot work.

PONDER

Would you consider asking someone to follow your example in your Christian life? What would hold you back from doing so? What do you think is a 'model Christian life'?

PRAYER IDEAS

Pray that God may help you model your life on Paul, as well as making you a model in your own life of Christian love, righteousness, forgiveness and progress.



15 Steps through the Bible

Jesus' Return

Jesus will return as the powerful and glorious King. At that time, he will express the fullness of God's kingdom by judging the whole world, and punishing 'Babel-ish' pride and rejection of God.

But those who trust in Jesus will be saved from God's judgement and be with God forever. Until Jesus returns, his people are to live here in a manner worthy of the kingdom of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

More detail

When Jesus returns, his glory will become evident to all. He will condemn those who have ignored him and opposed him. Finally, there will be no more rebellion against God's rule, and the salvation of God's people will be complete. Jesus will take his people to be with him forever. Jesus' return will be both wondrous and terrifying—wondrous for those who trust in him; terrifying for those who are opposed to him.

Jesus' promise

Jesus made this promise to his disciples:

John 14:3

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

Looking forward

Jesus' death for us (his body and blood) and his resurrection (his priesthood), together with his return (the Day), give us reason for living as Christians now:

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

How God works

Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus we look forward to Jesus' return and our life with him.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

QUESTIONS

1. What will happen when Jesus returns?
2. Read through the 'More detail' section again. What do you notice about the promise(s) of God?

PONDER

What do you hope for?

PRAYER IDEAS

Pray that you would live with your mind fixed on the imperishable inheritance that awaits you.

Daily Readings

Monday

- Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-10

QUESTIONS

1. What will happen to those who do not obey the gospel (vv. 6, 8-9)?
2. What will happen to those counted worthy of God's kingdom?
3. When will all this happen?

POINTER

Destruction is not annihilation, it is ruin. It is the loss of all one thinks is good, or valuable, or desirable. Everlasting destruction is not eternal annihilation, but complete, unremitting ruin and disaster.

PONDER

Under suffering, it is good to know that your enemies will be defeated and justice finally done, but it is also important to know that you will be vindicated.

Notice the focus on **“you”** (vv. 5, 6, 7, 10) and the feeling of hope that this gives. Do we view hope as a central part of our Christian life?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God for his justice and his promise of judgement. Ask God to teach you to live in Christian hope, knowing the future God has in store for you.

Tuesday

- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, then today's passage. Note down the character of the “man of lawlessness”.
2. How is this “man of lawlessness” overcome?
3. What deception were the Thessalonians in danger of?
4. Who is in control?

POINTER

There are lots of details that are hard to tie down. However, it is plain that God and the Lord Jesus will overcome the man of lawlessness clearly and conclusively.

PONDER

If the man of lawlessness is yet to come, how can John be sure that the Lord Jesus could come at any time (e.g. 1 John 2:18 10)?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God that he will totally overthrow the devil's work and all that oppose him, and pray that he may lift the veil of delusion from people's eyes.

Wednesday

- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

QUESTIONS

1. How did God choose the Thessalonians?
2. Why did God call them?
3. What were they to do?
4. What does Paul want God to do?

POINTER

'Sanctification' is often used by Christians to mean the way God, by his Spirit, is making us into the likeness of his Son. Here sanctification is being used in the more normal biblical sense of the word—the sense of being set apart and belonging to God.

PONDER

In verse 15 we see what it means to stand firm—that is, hold on to the apostle's teaching passed down. But in today's society, we are tempted to ignore Paul's teachings. Do you wish any parts of the New Testament would just disappear, or had never been written?

PRAYER IDEAS

Pray that you may be faithful to the Scriptures and that your sin would not blind you to the truth.