

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on The Book of 2 Thessalonians by David E. Pratte

A workbook suitable for Bible classes, family studies, or personal Bible study



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“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord” – 1 Corinthians 1:31

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Bible Study Questions on the Book of 2 Thessalonians

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly." Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

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Assignments on 2 Thessalonians 1

Please read the whole book of 2 Thessalonians at least once as we study chapter 1. Answer the following questions on chap. 1

1. Who wrote 2 Thessalonians – 1:1 (compare 1 Thessalonians)? Who was with him? (Think: Who is Silvanus? Compare 1 Thess. 1:1.)

2. To whom is the epistle addressed (compare 1 Thess. 1)? (Think: Review what is known about this church, and study when the letter was written.)

3. Skim the book and state its theme. Relate it to 1 Thessalonians.

4. For what did Paul give thanks – 1:3? Where else has he discussed their faith and love? (Think: What does this show about faith?)

5. List other *passages* about love of the brethren.

6. In what did Paul glory – 1:4? How might this relate to verse 3? (Think: In what sense is it proper to glory in people?)

7. **Define** “manifest.” What was made manifest – 1:5? (Think: What was making this manifest? Study the context, especially verses 6,7, and explain how this can be true.)

8. For what did they suffer? For what should they seek to be worthy?

9. What is righteous for God to do (1:6; compare verse 5)? According to verses 6,7, who is being troubled (afflicted) now, and who will be later?

10. **Application:** Explain the sense in which it is righteous for God to do this. How would this knowledge help the Thessalonians?

11. List other passages about the punishment of the wicked.

12. **Case Study:** A friend says a loving God would never punish the wicked in eternity. How would you respond?

13. What do those who are now afflicted receive later -1:7? When do they receive this?

14. List other passages about the second coming of Jesus. (Think: What passages say He will come with angels?)

15. Who will be punished when Jesus returns – 1:8,9?

16. **Application:** What application can be made of 1:8 to the doctrine of salvation by faith alone?

17. **Define** the terms: vengeance, punishment, destruction.

18. **Case Study:** Suppose you hear a preacher say that “destruction” means annihilation or complete non-existence, so the punishment of the wicked is that they will simply cease to exist. How would you respond? (Think: What is the significance of “from the face/presence of the Lord”?)

19. Summarize the punishment of the wicked.

20. When will these things happen – 1:10? What will believers do then?

21. **Special Assignment:** Explain how this passage would console people who wonder why good people suffer in life but other people seem to get away with evil?

22. For what did Paul pray in 1:11?

23. What is our calling? How many good works should we fulfill – 1:11?

24. What will be the result if we fulfill goodness and the work of faith – 1:12?

Assignments on 2 Thessalonians 2

Please read the whole book of 2 Thessalonians at least once as we study chapter 2. Answer the following questions on chap. 2.

1. What subject is introduced in 2:1? What is meant by our gathering together to Him?
2. List other passages about Jesus' second coming. Where else is it discussed in 1 & 2 Thessalonians?
3. What belief did Paul warn them against (2:2; study other translations)? (Think: What had Paul taught in 1 Thessalonians about the time of Jesus' coming?)
4. What methods may have been used to trouble the Thessalonians about this? Explain them.
5. What event(s) does Paul predict must precede Jesus' coming – 2:3? (Think: What can we learn about the danger of deceit?)
6. List other passages about falling away or apostasy. Explain the idea involved.
7. What terms are used to describe the “man” involved in this falling away? **Define** and explain the significance. (Note: Please study the whole context before making specific application regarding who this “man” is and what “falling away” is described here.)

8. Special Assignment: As the study proceeds, make a list of characteristics of this “man” and the falling away. We will use this list to try to identify him/it.

9. What relationship does the “man” discussed here have to God – 2:4? What does this tell you about him? (Think: What is the temple of God? See parallel references.)

10. What does Paul remind them of in 2:5?

11. Why had the man of sin not been revealed already – 2:6? How long would this continue – 2:7?

12. What does 2:7 show about when this apostasy began?

13. **Define** “mystery” and “lawlessness” (or “iniquity”). What do we learn about the apostasy from these expressions?

14. What expression is used for the man of sin in 2:8,9?

15. **Special Assignment:** Connect verses 7-9 to verse 4. List some ways that one who is lawless might exalt himself above God or show himself that he is God.

16. Connect verse 8 to verses 6,7. When will the lawless one be revealed?

17. What will the Lord do to the lawless one?

18. What “coming” is referred to in 2:8? How does this relate to Paul’s point in verses 1-3?

19. What will characterize the lawless one according to 2:9?

20. List Bible examples of lying wonders.

21. What is the purpose of miracles? How can one distinguish real miracles from lying miracles?

22. **Special Assignment:** Examine your summary of facts about this apostasy. List the possibilities of who/what it might refer to, and give evidence for each possibility.

23. What characteristic of the mystery of lawlessness is described in 2:10?

24. List other **passages** about the danger of deception and the deceptive methods of false teachers.

25. Why do people accept such false teachings – 2:10-12?

26. List other **passages** about the importance of truth.

27. What will be the destiny of those who accept these deceptions?

28. What will God send these people? Why?

29. **Special Assignment:** List other examples in which God used evil people for His purposes. Does He make people become evil? How could a good God send a delusion to people?

30. In contrast to 2:10-12, what did God do for some people in 2:13?

31. List other *passages* about how God chooses or elects people.

32. **Define** “sanctification.” List other *passages*.

33. How are we called to be chosen for salvation – 2:14? Give other *passages* describing how this happens.

34. What do we receive as a result of this calling?

35. **Special Assignment:** According to the context and other passages, are we chosen to salvation conditionally or unconditionally. Prove your answer.

36. **Define** tradition. What did Paul say to do with it – 2:15?

37. List other *passages* about tradition.

38. **Special Assignment:** Summarize the Bible teaching about tradition, harmonizing verses that say to follow it with those that warn against it.

39. **Case Study:** The Catholic church claims that verse 15 justifies oral tradition as authority for church doctrine today. How would you respond?

40. What request did Paul make in 2:6,17? (Think: Why did the Thessalonians need to have hope and be established?)

Assignments on 2 Thessalonians 3

Please read the whole book of 2 Thessalonians at least once as we study chapter 3. Answer the following questions on chap. 3.

1. For what should they pray – 3:1? Where else had Paul requested prayers for himself?
2. Study several translations of 3:1. What should we want to happen to the gospel? Why?
3. From what kind of men did Paul hope to be delivered – 3:2? (Think: What kind of problems can such men cause?)
4. What will God do for His people – 3:3? Why is this important? (Think: Does this prove we cannot be lost? Explain.)
5. What confidence did Paul have in the Thessalonians – 3:4?
6. What qualities should we develop in our hearts – 3:5? (Think: Why are these important?)
7. What instruction did Paul give in 3:6 (note the connection to 3:14,15)?
8. How did Paul emphasize the importance of this instruction?

9. **Special Assignment:** List other *passages* about church conduct toward members who sin. Summarize what they teach.

10. List other passages and translations that help explain the meaning of “withdraw” (compare verse 14). **Define** the word. (Think: Who breaks the “fellowship” — the church or the sinner? How is it broken? Compare 1 John 1:7. What does the church withdraw?)

11. From how many brethren should the church withdraw – 3:6? (Think: What do other passages say must be done before withdrawal?)

12. Here are a few passages that use various grammatical forms of “order” or “disorder” (“unruly”) – you may wish to find others - 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Colossians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Acts 22:10 (“appointed”). **Define** “order” and “disorder.”

13. **Special Assignment:** As we study 3:6-15, gather evidence to answer this question: Do verses 6,14,15 teach a **general** principle which is applied in verses 7–12 to a **specific** sin, or do verses 6,14,15 apply **only** to the specific sin of verses 7-12?

14. How else does 3:6 describe those who should be withdrawn from?

15. **Define** “tradition.” Where else in 2 Thessalonians have we studied about it? How does verse 6 relate to the earlier references?

16. What kind of disorderly conduct is discussed in 3:7-12?

17. What example had Paul set – 3:8?

18. List other passages regarding Paul’s labor with his hands. (Think: What “authority” does Paul refer to in verse 9?)

19. How should one be treated if he will not work – 3:10? How important is this instruction?

20. List other passages that require people to work.

21. **Application:** Explain and give examples of the application of verse 10.

22. What specific problem at Thessalonica concerned Paul – 3:11?

23. **Define** “busybody.” Why is it often associated with idleness?

24. List other **passages** about busybodies or related sins. (Think: Does “disorderly” in 3:12 refer only to idleness? Is any other sin listed as an example of disorderly conduct? Explain.)

25. What correction should these non-working members make – 3:12?

26. What admonition does Paul give in – 3:13? Why is this needed in context? List other similar passages.

27. Who should be disciplined according to 3:14? Does this refer only to idleness?

28. Explain the meaning of “note” and “do not keep company.” Check other translations and similar passages.

29. What effect do we hope this treatment will have on the sinner? Explain.

30. What additional conduct does 3:15 describe? What does this show about our motives? (Think: Remember to complete your list of Bible evidence whether verses 6-15 apply just to the specific sin of idleness or whether it teaches a general principle with many applications including idleness.)

31. How does Paul conclude the letter – 3:16-18? Why was a handwritten salutation important (compare 2:2)?

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