

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 53 – “II Thessalonians”
May 31, 2009

II Thessalonians: Some Background Information

The Audience: The Apostle Paul was again writing to the young Christians that made up the church at Thessalonica. A new church, it already had experienced suffering (1:4), had been shaken by false reports (2:1-2), and had some members that were proving to be slackers (3:10).

The Date of the Letter: II Thessalonians was written very shortly after I Thessalonians (AD 50-51).

The Purposes of the Letter: Paul wrote this epistle: (1) to comfort the afflicted (1:4); (2) to correct the false teachings of End Times alarmists (2:1-2) and (3) to condemn the laziness of those that had quit work in anticipation of the Lord’s return (3:6-14).

The Theme of the Letter: Glorification in Christ (1:12)

Length of the Epistle: Of all Paul’s epistles, only Titus and Philemon are shorter.

II Thessalonians: An Outline

1. Standing Firm in Adversity. Chapter 1

- Thanksgiving for growth and perseverance in the face of persecution and trials. 1:3-4
- The outcome of Christian perseverance: bringing glory to God. 1:5-10
- Prayer for fulfillment of purpose and glorification. 1:11-12

2. Setting Straight the Alarmists. Chapter 2

- The Day of the Lord has not yet come. 2:1-2
- The Man of Lawlessness must first be revealed. 2:3-12
- The need to stand firm in the truth. 2:13-15

- A prayer for encouragement. 2:16-17

3. Shaking Up the Apathetic. Chapter 3

- A request for prayer. 3:1-2
 - For the advancement of the message. v. 1
 - For the deliverance of the messengers. v. 2
- Words of encouragement. 3:3-4
- A prayer for continuing perseverance. 3:5
- Warnings against idleness. 3:6-15
 - Paul's exemplary work ethic. v. 6-10
 - Paul's words regarding the idlers. v. 11-12
 - Paul's instructions to the church. v. 13-15
- A prayer, a signature, and a benediction. 3:16-18