

# Study Buddies:

## Quick Bible Reference Guides

### I AND II THESSALONIANS: Being Faithful, Not Lazy

Note: this sheet was prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, however it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

#### Overview

Paul founded the church in Thessalonica, and these letters are considered to be some of his more intimate addresses. Many of the members had stopped working because they thought that Jesus was coming in a matter of days. Others were worried about family members who had already died. Paul wrote to reassure the Church about Christ's return and let them know that he would be coming back for the faithful. The second letter emphasizes that he had not come yet.



#### Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-9--A faith example
- 1 Thessalonians 2: 2-8--Spreading the Word
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Wholesome living
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:9 The return of Jesus Christ
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 Worthy of being God's people
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Events leading to Jesus' return
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:6-15 Be faithful not lazy

#### Study Questions

1. How had the Thessalonians been an example for other Christians in the area around them? (1:7-9). How can Christians today be an example for others?
2. In 2:1-12 Paul describes his work in Thessalonica. What does he say was his motivation for preaching? What does he imply would be wrong motives for preaching the good news?
3. Paul sent his friend Timothy to remind the Thessalonians of the message Paul had first taught them (3:1-6). Why is it important for Christians to be reminded often about the message about Christ? Have you had a good teacher tell you the message about Christ? If so, describe this person and how he or she taught this message.
4. How does Paul suggest the Thessalonian Christians prepare for the Lord's return? (5:1-11). How does he say they should live in the meantime? (5:12-22). Which of Paul's suggestions do you find most challenging right now? What do you need to change in order to improve in this area?
5. Why does the author of 2 THESSALONIANS so often mention that he has been praying for those people he is writing to? (1:2; 2:17; 3:16-18). What is the value of prayer? Who do you pray for? What do you ask God to give them or do for them?

6. What does the author mean by his statement that the “Lord Jesus will punish anyone who doesn't know God and won't obey his message” (1:8)? What does it mean to know God? What does it mean to obey God's message?

7. What false teaching was being spread in the Thessalonian church? (2:1,2). Why does the author think this teaching is dangerous or harmful?

8. What advice does the author have for the Thessalonian Christians as they wait for Christ's return? (3:6-13). What are some of the hazards of laziness? What can you do to avoid becoming “tired of doing right?”

## **Something to Think About**

(additional food for thought)

Re-read 2:13-17. What does this passage teach about God's love, faithfulness, hope, and the importance of doing and saying the right thing? When in your life have you experienced God's kindness? (2:16). How did this change the way you thought or the way you behaved toward others?