

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

## 2 THESSALONIANS



Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

### Introduction

- Story of the birth of the Thessalonian church recorded in [Acts 17].
- A church that was born and grew despite ongoing persecution/affliction.
- The 2 Thessalonian letters have become the 13th/14th books of our NT.
- The over riding theme is the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians - the believer and the 2nd coming.
- 2 Thessalonians - the unbeliever and the 2nd coming.
- 1 Thessalonians - '*will the Christian dead miss the 2nd coming?*'
- 2 Thessalonians - '*has the 2nd coming somehow already happened?*'

### 1 Three Key New Testament Words

- Coming: '*parousia*'.
- Revelation/Revealing: '*apokalupsis*'.
- Appearing: '*epiphaneia*'.
- NB. These words are used interchangeably to describe the same event.

### 2 The Second Coming And The Unbeliever

- Christ is coming personally, visibly and very publicly.
- The Christian dead will be resurrected. (the 1st resurrection).
- The living and resurrected Christians clothed with immortality.
- Then together '*raptured*' by the help of angels to meet the Lord in the air. [Matthew 24:30/31].
- Angels then return to earth for a 2nd purpose. [2Thessalonians 1:7/8].

### 3 The Falling Away

- Some were saying the Lord had already returned.
- Paul said that would not happen until certain things happened first.
- [2:3] A great '*falling away*' had to happen first.
- This took place with the '*Medieval church*'.
- Truth was replaced with superstition and God's words by men's words.
- Liberal Protestantism and the critical approach to the Bible and the supernatural explained away added to the '*falling away*'.
- This '*falling away*' is still happening. [2Thess 2:15].

### 4 A Rebuilt Temple At Jerusalem?

- This fallacy is hung on the words of [2:3/4].
- The Jerusalem temple was the centrepiece of Jewish worship.
- It accommodated the sacrifice of animals for sin.
- When Jesus died as '*the Lamb of God*' no further need for animal sacrifice.
- The Jews rejected Christ's sacrifice and kept sacrificing animals.
- God allowed the temple to be destroyed to end their practise. [Hebrews 10:26].
- The word '*temple*' in [vs 4] is '*naos*' meaning the church.
- If Paul had meant the temple at Jerusalem he would have used Greek word '*hieron*'.
- It was in the '*church*' that the '*man of sin*' would arise.
- This happened with the rise of the dynasty of the bishops of Rome
- They have taken to themselves titles '*vicar (substitute) of the Son of God*' '*Lord God, the pope*' '*the Holy Father*' etc.
- These things were still to be fulfilled in Paul's day.
- They have now been fulfilled.
- '*The Coming of the Lord draws nigh*'.

**Be ready! Be ready! Be ready! Be ready! Be ready!**  
**Be ready! Be ready! Be ready! Be ready! Be ready!**

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A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH  
**THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
**1 THESSALONIANS**  
QUALITIES OF A GOOD CHURCH



**Homework** - Last week we asked you to read through 1Thessalonians and find at least 12 qualities/hallmarks of a good church.

**Answers -**

The Marks Of A Good Church Based On [1Thessalonians].

[1:7/8] A good example to other churches.

[1:8] God's undiluted Word going out far and wide.

[1:9] A congregation one and all '**servi**ng' the living and true God.

[2:13] A congregation that welcomed/embraced the Word of God.

[3:6] Remembers the servants of the Lord.

[3:12] A church that abounds in love for one another. (Also 4:9)

[4:1] A church where the people's first priority is to '**please God**'

[4:3/4] A church walking in sanctification and is morally upright

[5:6] A church that is watchful.

[5:11] A church that comforts and edifies one another.

[5:12] A church that respects the servants of the Lord among them.

[5:17] A church of prayer.

[5:19/20] A church that is '**Pentecostal**'

[5:25] A congregation that prays faithfully for the servants of God.