

**BOOK: 2 Thessalonians**

**Title: Stand Firm till the End**

Date: 31-Jan-00

1:1 - 2	1:3 - 5	1:6 - 10	1:11 - 12	2:1 - 2	2:3 - 12	2:13 - 15	2:16 - 17	3:1 - 2	3:3 - 5	3:6 - 15	3:16 - 18
Greeting	Grateful about their lives	God's judgment is right	Prayers for the Thess church	Be steadfast	What is yet to occur	Stand firm	Be encouraged	Pray for us	God will protect you	Warnings against idleness	Authoritive farewell from Paul
Greeting	Thess church endurance under persecution			Stand firm till prophecy is fulfilled				Spiritual counsel		Farewell	

**Principal Personalities**

**Author:** Paul - Apostle to the Gentiles (set apart and called specifically for this)

**Audience:** New Testament church at Thessalonica, a large Roman element with a Jewish colony. Church made up of Jews from synagogues and Greek proselytes. High emancipation among women.

**Other:** Paul's ministry team: Paul, Luke, Silas, Timothy.

Timothy - Converted at Lystra on Paul's first missionary trip. One of Paul's key men whom he relied upon an in whom he placed much responsibility. Most mentioned person in Paul's epistles.

**Historical Setting**

**Date of writing:** Written after 1 Thess in the early 50's, probably a month after 1 Thess was written, A.D. 51.

**Background:** Church founded on Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16-17) when en route from Philippi to Achaia. Paul began ministry there as a tent maker. When Silas and Timothy joined Paul, they had funds with them, enabling Paul to minister full time. Violent Jewish reaction to Paul's preaching forced him out of the synagogues. Evidently the Thess Christians had been disturbed by the arrival of an epistle purporting to come from Paul, which he had not authorized (2:2). Some of them were suffering harsh persecution (1:4,5); others were apprehensive that the last day was about to arrive (2:2); and there were still a few who were idle and disorderly (3:6-12).

**Purpose**

The occasion of the writing was a misunderstanding among the Thessalonians regarding the coming of Christ for His own (1 Thes 4:13-17) and the day of the Lord (1 Thes 5:1-10). Because these believers were being persecuted severely, they erroneously concluded that the day of the Lord had arrived (2:2). Paul writes to correct this misconception.

**Themes**

Apostasy described preceding the coming of Christ to judgment.  
Retain Thess faith and improve their conduct  
Exhortations against idleness

**Style**

Admonishing, protective. Written as one of them ("brother" used 9 times)

**Key Words**

Brother - 9  
Faith/faithful - 5, Belief\* - 5  
Suffer/trouble - 4  
Evil/wicked/Satan - 6  
Rebel\*/lawless\* - 5  
Deceiv\*/counterfeit - 3

**Additional Personalities**

**Geography**

Thessalonica - Macedonian coastal town. Dominated northern trade route and road network. Chief port of Macedonia.

**Notes/Remarks**

First epistle (1 Thess) heralded the resurrection of the righteous dead and the restoration of the living at the return of Christ. The two epistles deal with two different aspects of the same general subject, and bear so many resemblances to each other that they are clearly related. Early evidence for the acceptance of 2 Thess is almost as full as for that of 1 Thess.

**Verse(s)**

15 - So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

**Outline**

- I. Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Thess church endurance under pressure (1:3-12)
  - A. Grateful about their lives (1:3-5)
  - B. God's judgment is right (1:6-10)
  - C. Prayers for the Thess church (1:11-12)
- III. Stand firm till prophecy is fulfilled (2:1-17)
  - A. Be steadfast (2:1-2)
  - B. What is yet to occur (2:3-12)
  - C. Stand firm (2:13-15)
  - D. Be encouraged (2:16-17)
- IV. Spiritual counsel (3:1-15)
  - A. Pray for us (3:1-2)
  - B. God will protect you (3:3-5)
  - C. Warnings against idleness (3:6-15)
- V. Authoritive farewell from Paul (3:16-18)