

Lecture 17 – 1 & 2 Thessalonians

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 4:23

Key Terms

Thanksgiving, encouragement, admonition, coming of the Lord

Objectives

- *Identify the occasion, content and purpose of 1 Thessalonians.
- *Identify the occasion, content and purpose of 2 Thessalonians.
- *Assess what you gain from the way Paul approaches the Thessalonians.

1 & 2 Thessalonians

I. Occasion for 1 and 2 Thessalonians

- A. AD 50-51—1 Thessalonians
- B. Written from Corinth
- C. Paul has heard some reports about the Thessalonians. Acts 17:1-15

II. 1 Thessalonians

- A. Paul gives thanks and encourages the Thessalonians for almost half the letter (1:1-3:13).
- B. Paul respects the work of God.
- C. Except for _____, every letter begins with praise.
- D. The praise is a _____ of Paul to _____ God’s work.
- E. Only then Paul gives admonition (4:1-12).
- F. Instruction section regarding the coming of the Lord (4:13-5:11)
- G. Characteristic: Theocentric. 150 references to God/Christ in 1 & 2 Thessalonians in a total of 136 verses. (*this point is not on the CD lecture*)

III. 2 Thessalonians

- A. Follows the first letter closely
 1. Another reference is made to the coming of the Lord.
The young Thessalonian church had a preoccupation with this topic.
 - a. Two problems/extremes:
 - 1) _____ (1 Thes.)
 - 2) _____ (2 Thes.)
 - b. Both extremes feed human nature.
 - c. Paul’s advice: Live your life as if _____, but _____.
 - B. _____ guards against extremes.
 - C. Two demarcation positions: _____ and _____.
 - D. Paul dwells on our _____ life. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
 - E. Living expectation of the _____.
 - F. We need to live _____.
- G. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8: Lawlessness
 1. Restraining power: Smoldering principle of lawlessness
 2. When the restrainer has been removed, there will be a mushrooming of lawlessness and the Lord will come.
 3. Restrainer is _____ (v. 7)
 4. Cf. Galatians

IV. Detailed Consideration of 1 Thessalonians

- A. Paul encourages the Thessalonians.

- B. Paul commends their faith and love.
 - 1. Reminds them that God has replaced their idols.
- C. Paul confirms that they belong to God.
 - 1. God chose them.
 - 2. God enabled them to hear the Gospel.
 - 3. God is the author of the message they received.
 - 4. God is the head of the church.
 - 5. God wants their lives be conformed to His purposes.

V. Detailed Consideration of 2 Thessalonians

- A. Instructions concerning the coming of Christ, 2:9-12
- B. Thanksgiving and admonition, 2:13-3:5
- C. Practical instructions/consequences (work; wayward believers), 3:6-16
- D. Paul's concern is that the young believers are not misled into extreme near-expectation.
- E. Instructions on how to deal with believers who are easily moved by word of occasion
 - 1. A _____ life is the _____ of a _____ of _____.
- F. Encouragement of eventual victory in midst of struggle, both internal and external, 1:4-10
- G. Approach to ethics and morality in 1 and 2 Thessalonians?
 - 1. Live in a _____ way with the _____.

Questions & Answers