

A LOOK AT THE BOOK 2 Thessalonians

Ralph Porter
© 2003

Author and Date

The connection with 1 Thessalonians, plus the evidence from tradition and internal evidence point to Paul as the author of the letter.

The date was several months after 1 Thessalonians, probably in A.D. 51.

Historical Background

They continue to suffer because of their faith in Christ.

Paul still hasn't been able to come to them and is still sending Timothy as his representative.

The persecution has created further theological problems that need to be dealt with.

Some are claiming that they are already in the Day of the Lord.

Purpose and Theme

Paul writes:

1. To comfort and encourage them in the midst of their suffering.
2. To correct the doctrinal confusion concerning the Day of the Lord.
3. To encourage them to stand firm and to hold onto the sound doctrine they have been taught.
4. To obligate those who are idle to go to work.

The main idea of the letter is comfort in the midst of their suffering.

- He comforts them by demonstrating that suffering serves to produce praise to God.
- Those who are faithful to Him will triumph in the end.

WHAT RESULTS SHOULD THE TRUTHS PRESENTED IN THIS BOOK PRODUCE IN OUR LIVES TODAY?

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THIS MAKE?

2 THESSALONIANS

Comfort in the midst of Suffering

Ralph Porter

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THEM 1	INSTRUCTION CONCERNING THE DAY OF THE LORD 2	HIS EXHORTATIONS TO THEM 3
<p>His Greeting 1:1-2</p> <p>His Prayer 1:3-12</p> <p> Thanksgiving 1:3-10</p> <p> Cause 3-4</p> <p> Growing faith 3a</p> <p> Abounding love 3b</p> <p> Enduring persecution 4</p> <p> Results 5-10</p> <p> Petition 1:11-12</p> <p> That God will count them worthy 11a</p> <p> That God will fulfill every good purpose 11b</p> <p> That God will be glorified in them 12</p>	<p>Correction of a Mistaken Concept 2:1-2</p> <p>Two Evidences against the Presence of the Day 2:3-10</p> <p> Apostasy 2:3a</p> <p> Revelation of man of lawlessness 2:3b-10</p> <p> His character 3b</p> <p> His work 4-5</p> <p> His obstacle 6-8a</p> <p> His destiny 8b</p> <p> His deception 9-10</p> <p>Judgment of Unbelievers 2:11-12</p> <p>Prayer for Them 2:13-17</p>	<p>Call to Prayer 3:1-5</p> <p> Their prayer for him 3:1-2</p> <p> His prayer for them 3:3-5</p> <p> That God strengthen them 3a</p> <p> That God protect them from the evil one 3b</p> <p> That they obey His commands 4</p> <p> That they enjoy God's love and Christ's endurance 5</p> <p>Correction of the Lazy 3:6-15</p> <p> Summary command 6</p> <p> Pauline example 7-9</p> <p> Specific exhortations 10-15</p> <p>PERSONAL NOTES 3:16-18</p> <p> Prayer for peace in affliction 16</p> <p> Pauline identification 17</p> <p> Benediction 18</p>