

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 1 Thessalonians 5:5-28

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

The Book of 1 and 2 Thessalonians will challenge you to what you have been told before

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us? – it teaches on

1. Jesus return, and his timing for his return? – (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
2. How Jesus will return, and in what way or manner?, Who are the elect, and how can we know who the elect are?, To whom is this book written, and for what purpose?
3. How Thessalonians fits in with other scriptures on the return of Christ?

Now back to 1 Thessalonians 5:5-28

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

⁸ But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. I just want to say a few things about this verse.
2. This is a clear indication that God has not appointed the saved to go through the time that he is pouring out his wrath upon the earth.
3. But also note that the tribulation is not God's wrath.
4. God's wrath is only poured out after the tribulation and after the 7th seal has been opened which is in the beginning of Revelation 8.
5. So understand please. The tribulation and God pouring out His wrath are two different events entirely.
6. This verse teaches that if we have salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, then we are not appointed to wrath.
7. But that does not mean we won't go through the tribulation.

¹⁰ Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. ¹¹ Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

You see the scriptures says in verse 10, that it does not matter whether we are are awake at the Lords coming, (still alive when the Lord returns, or whether we are asleep when the Lord returns (those who have died), ; the bible says that it does not matter, because either way we will live together with the Lord when he returns.

Because as the scripture said that whether we will both be caught up together with him in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

So these words are meant to be a comfort to us, because we know the Lord as our Saviour.

So the Lords return with be after the tribulation, but before God starts pouring out his wrath upon the earth.

1. And it's not until Revelation Chapter 8 that we will see God pouring out his wrath upon the earth and the wicked ; which is **after the tribulation, and after the rapture** of the saints. (the multitude in heaven suddenly appears, clothed in white garments and palms in their hands, praising God. (Rev 7).
2. This means that judgment and Gods wrath has only now come upon the earth in Revelation 8.
3. This then proves again that the Tribulation is not God pouring out his wrath upon his people.
4. This also proves that the rapture is after the tribulation, and that God only starts pouring out his wrath after the tribulation once the 144,000 have been sealed and it also proves that the trumpets come after the seals and not before.
5. And the trumpets come only after the saints or believers have been raptured and are in heaven.

➤ Also as we read in Luke the account of the disciples asking Jesus when will he return.

✚ Luke 17 is the culmination of the disciples asking Jesus about when will the kingdom of God come.....look what Jesus said.....

Luke 17: ²² And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. ²³ And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. (Jesus said this in 2 Thess 2:3-5 as Paul recorded it).

²⁴ For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

²⁵ But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. ²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. ²⁷ They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. (the same day judgement came)

²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ **But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.** (the same day judgement came)

³⁰ **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.** (judgement day)

³¹ **In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away; and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.** ³² **Remember Lot's wife.** ³³ **Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.**

³⁴ **I tell you, in that night** there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. ³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁷ **And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.** (Matt 24:27-28)

✚ The same day when these events took place, Jesus said it would be in the same day that he would pour out his wrath upon the wicked. In other words in the same day as the saints are raptured then in (about the space of a half hour in heaven) Jesus will then begin to pour out his wrath upon the wicked on the earth. (Rev 8:1).

1. **Note that:** - The timing of the events and the events themselves described in Revelation 6, 7 and 8 are the exactly the same as the events in Matthew 24.

And when we look at this after the tribulation period, there is still a chance that people can be saved before God pours out his wrath and even those who survive the wrath of God who did not take the Mark of the beast still can believe on God.

✚ So it is possible for someone to still get saved and raptured even after the tribulation for a short period but, those after the rapture who did not believe on Jesus will go through the wrath of God; and if they don't take the mark of the beast they can still get saved before and during the millennium. These saints will not be part of the 1st resurrection but will be part of the 2nd resurrection after the 1000 year millennium. (Joel 2:30)

✚ But once the Rapture takes place then it is too late to get saved in the 1st resurrection. But there will be those who will later get saved who did not take the Mark of the beast and who turned to Jesus after the rapture and those that were born afterwards in the millennium who turned to Jesus who survived the wrath of God.

- ❖ Now as we come to verses 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28, the Apostle Paul turns again to the spiritual side of the believers.
- ❖ He wants to remind them and instruct them again on how they ought to live as they wait upon the Lords return.

✓ **Why do you suppose or think he would do that?**

- 1) Well because there is a tendency for Christians who think that now that they are saved; that they can now live like the devil again;
 - 2) Therefore it is the same truth today even as it was in the day of the Apostle Paul.
- ✓ People want the blessing of the Lord, but at the same time they want to live like the devil and have all that the world has to offer.

Now whilst it is true that you cannot lose your salvation if you truly have called upon the name of the Lord in every respect of that word. But, there is a consequence for living like the devil afterwards, if that is what you are doing.

- So the Apostle Paul warns and reminds the Thessalonian believers in the church of holding to a double standard.
1. What Christians fail to remember, or are so easy to forget, is that the Lord demands holy living from his servants, and that the Lord will chastise those who fail to do that.

Hebrews 12:7-9 King James Version (KJV)

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Hebrews 12:6

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

2. God loves those who have called upon the name of His Son for salvation. But at the same time because you have become his son, he will continue to chasten and scourge you so that you may be refined as silver, because the Lord knows that a person needs to be kept inline because of his sin nature to do that which is evil.
3. So when you step out of line, or don't do the things of the Lord, God will chasten you and make no mistake he will.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

4. Also the Lord wants us to deliver righteous works as a result of our salvation.
5. If when we are saved and we have no works, then God will not reward us openly upon his return. We will not have the positions that God promises as a reward if we don't serve him after our salvation.

Acts 26:19-21 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁹ Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: ²⁰ But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and **do works meet for repentance.** ²¹ For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

1. On the other hand if all a person wants to do is good works, then that will not get them into heaven no matter how hard they try at their work in the flesh. (this was the case of the law).
2. But Jesus said that after we are saved, we should show forth our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. So there is a big difference.....

Matthew 5:16 Let **your light** so shine before men, that they may see **your good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

3. *(we should be the torch of the gospel) is what Jesus is saying.*

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the **works** of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the **works** of the law: for by the **works** of the law shall no flesh be justified.

- But here is the key.....Ephesians 2:8-9, and 10.

Ephesians 2:8-10 King James Version (KJV)

⁸ **For by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ **Not of works,** lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,** which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to **our works**, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly **furnished unto all good works.**

- Our righteous works cannot save us.....even if they are righteous.....Titus 3:5, but we are called, afterwards to do righteous works.

Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,** by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto **love and to good works.**

- All through the scriptures Gods people were to call upon his name for salvation and then afterwards they are called to work for the Lord. To do good works.

Revelation 2:2 **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:5

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and **do the first works**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:9

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:13

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:19

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy **works**; and the last to be more than the first.

Revelation 2:23

And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: **and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, **and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:**

Revelation 3:1

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I know thy works**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3:2

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: **for I have not found thy works perfect before God.**

Revelation 3:8

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:15

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

1. So doing good works for God is a requirement once you are saved, or else Jesus would not have said what he said to the seven churches in the book of Revelation either.
 2. Also the Apostle Paul would not have reinforced it either.
- ✚ Then as we get to verse 12 Paul steps it up a gear in reminding the church again of how important it is to fall under the leadership of that church, and how God places a great emphasis on the leadership, and how God wants the structure of that leadership to be maintained.

- ✓ Why do you suppose that Paul would bring up something like this now?
- ✓ Why do you suppose that Paul brought this question up?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Well here is the answer.

1. If leadership was not required by God, then why do we see all through the bible that God first of all raised up leaders from among the people?
2. Secondly, if leadership was NOT important when why did God, spend so much time in the scriptures defining what leader should be.
3. Thirdly, also then, why did God spend then a whole chapter in 1Timothy 3 and a whole chapter in Titus outlining what the qualifications of a leader must be?
4. Also why did God, say in the scriptures then if leadership was not important, that he suffers a woman not to speak in the church, or that woman should keep silent in the churches during the speaking or prophesying of God's word which was taking place?

You see in Today's world, and equally so in the days of the Apostles, people don't want a leader over them.

People just want to gather together, as a home church, or some other gathering and want to say, well you see the bible says, where two or three are gathered Jesus will be there. So we are gathering and having church.

Well it is true Jesus is there where two or three are gathered, but it is also equally true that Jesus is there even if one person is gathered in Jesus. So that is true. But, that does not constitute a church.

5. Instead People want to gather, where it is a free for all, and have their say in the matters of doctrine, and not be subject to any kind of leadership, and they view any kind of leadership as authoritarian, totalitarian or dictatorial or controlling and therefore they don't want to come to a regular church with a pastor as the leader.
 6. These kinds of people want to have just as much say in the matters of doctrine from their own point of view, and therefore view any kind of gathering where there is a leadership and a pastor or bishop that is over the people as being a cult?
 7. They will say things like I cannot believe that you would have a pastor instruct you, and tell you how you should present yourselves or live your life.
- ✓ Well let's look what the scripture says about these matters. Lets read the scripture.

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

1. Here the Apostle is begging or pleading, which is the word to beseech; that the saved who are the brethren, recognize or know them, which is the pastor or deacons that are laboring for the Lord towards the peoples.
2. He is telling them that they must submit to the leadership who are “**over you**” in the Lord.
3. And the reason he is saying that to the brethren, is because these pastors or leaders are caring for their souls in the Lord and admonishing them; which is the word encouraging and giving a warning to them about how they should conduct themselves as believers in the Lord.

The word “**to know them**”, is placed on the emphasis of knowing that it is these leaders of whom the Lord holds in high responsibly are placed in amongst the people to make sure that they are holding fast to the word of God.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

4. That’s why there is often so much trouble in the church because people, especially ladies want to come in and just take over the things of the Lord, and make changes to suite themselves.
 5. But in fact they are being insubordinate to the Lord, and deny what the very word of God is telling them to do.
 6. It is only those who have hardened their hearts towards God that have a tough time with watching what the Lord demands.
- ❖ Because when we get to verse 13, these people have a huge problem with the leadership.

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

1. The Pastor or bishop or Elder, (same office), are rather to be loved, and encouraged for their work’s sake in the Lord.
2. And that’s why Paul said “and be at peace among yourselves.
3. Not trying to topple the leadership to try and get your own way.
4. So evidently Paul was aware of these kinds’ of issues cropping up in the church, and wanted them to be warned of them.
5. This is after all was the first church that Paul had established.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

1. I believe this is why Paul called and reached out to the whole congregation of the church to “warn them that are unruly?”
2. So Paul appealed to the whole church to be on guard for these kinds of people who would try and come and destroy what Gods leadership had established.

✓ The word unruly is the word that comes from the word to rule. Therefore the word “un rule” is the word mentioned here as “**unruly**”, where it means that it is someone who does not want to be ruled by someone else.

3. So then, these are people who do not want to obey the leadership or the Pastor.
4. These are the people who are quite happy to just have a home church where there is nobody in charge, and where chaos reins, and anything goes.
5. So here we also see not only the instruction to warn people of being unruly, but also to encourage those who are not able to do so themselves. Those that are feeble minded (who are perhaps slow or not intelligent).
6. To support the weak, and then to be patient toward all men.

Then as we read the rest of the verses to verse 28, they are all to do with holy living, and again to rejoice as the Lord returns.

✓ So all through this book Paul is speaking about how they believers should live as unto the coming of our Lord which again we find in verse 23.

²³ **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

✓ So the book of 1 Thessalonians is majored on the Holy living of the believer at the coming of the Lord, which is the rapture of all believers at that point.

✚ This is the second coming of Jesus, the day of the Lord and the rapture all in one.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....