

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

Walking through the Bible one verse at a time!

What I would like to preach on for the next foreseeable weeks is on the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. These are some of the most important books in the NT, and reveal a lot about the second coming of Jesus Christ our Lord.

What stands out most about these 2 books is that it deals with bible prophecy, and just about every chapter deals with this fact.

After spending some time on topical preaching, it is just as refreshing to turn to other books of the bible and to be fed by the word of the Lord.

- So this morning I am going to be preaching on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

The 2 books of Thessalonians are both very short passages of scripture that are both packed with insights into the future return of Jesus Christ our Lord, and contain many scriptures concerning his return.

But for many these two short books of the NT have been misused and misquoted in many instances to prop up other doctrines to the demise of these two special books of the bible.

So what I want for all of us to do is to sit back and allow the scriptures to speak for themselves, without you having any preconceived ideas of your own or what you have previously been taught.

- If it's in scripture then we must believe it to be so, and if not it must be rejected at all costs? Is it not so?

I can assure you, that 1 and 2 Thessalonians is going to challenge what you have been told before, but now you are going to see the truth for yourself, and you will have to be the judge of that truth, and accept it or reject it.

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us?

Well here are some of the things that will be revealed as we look into these scriptures.

1. Jesus return, and his timing for his return?
2. How Jesus will return, and in what way?
3. Who are the elect, and how can we know who the elect are?
4. To whom is this book written, and for what purpose?
5. How do these 2 books of Thessalonians fit in with other scriptures?

So these are just some of the questions and answers that these books will give us.

Now both these books deal with aspects of the return of Christ, for example it deals with the wrath of God being poured out on the unsaved, the tribulation, Jesus coming in the clouds, and the saved being with Christ.

- Over and over again these sayings keep coming up, and even in the most famous passages of which is dealing with the rapture as in the case of 1 Thessalonians Chapter four.
- This is when the trumpet sounds and Christ comes in the clouds, and then those that are alive and remain are caught up together with him, to be with him, to meet the Lord in the air, and so ever be with the Lord.
- Unfortunately that seems to be the only passage that ever gets quoted with regards to bible prophecy in Thessalonians, and the other scriptures tend to be ignored.
- When there is so much more in these books that explains and reveals the events of the end times and the coming of our Lord.
- ❖ **In fact if you study 1 and 2 Thessalonians you will find out that it matches up exactly with what Jesus taught in Mathew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21.**

But unfortunately many people take Mathew chapter 24, out of context and twist it and give it a new interpretation which is outside of what the bible is teaching, to change the timing of the rapture.

1. Now as we go through 1 and 2 Thessalonians we will be able to get the context of what is happening in relation to bible prophecy instead of a superficial understanding where verses have been taken out of context in the past to express what people wanted it to say.
 2. Also where they have only picked on a small part of Thessalonians to get their doctrine for the return of Christ and the rapture.
- ✚ So in the next few months or weeks we are going to study every verse from Chapter 1 that leads up to chapter 4, and then to chapter 5. And then when we get into 2nd Thessalonians we will be equipped to better understand those scriptures in light of what has already been said in 1st Thessalonians.

So before we get into chapter 1, because it is one of the shortest chapters, let's first look at some of the verses in this Chapter. For example verse 10. And I also want to point out the theme of some of the things that are discussed in these following chapters.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ¹⁰ And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

- ✓ So straight away regarding end times prophecy, we read in verse 10 that they were to "wait for his Son from heaven". And that Jesus has "delivered us from the wrath to come"

- ✓ So in this scripture here we have a reference to the waiting of the second coming of Jesus Christ, and a deliverance from the wrath to come.
- ✓ Then a little later in chapter 3 verse 3 and 4 the bible talks about affliction with the return of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 3:3-4: ³ That **no man should be moved by these afflictions**: for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto.** ⁴ **For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

1. So what we have here in Chapter 3 is that we are appointed to tribulation.
2. The bible says here in verse 3 that if we are a believer, then we have an appointment with affliction.
3. In fact the bible even here in verse 4 uses the word afflictions and tribulation interchangeably.

Then in Chapter 5, is the often quoted verse 9, which says.....⁹ **For God hath not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

- ✓ So consistently what we see in Thessalonians is that we will be delivered from the wrath of God, and we will not suffer the wrath of Gods hand, but that we will suffer affliction or tribulation.
- ✓ We will go through tribulation.

Now go back to Chapter 1 and I want to show you again that the words affliction and tribulation are used interchangeably in the NT.

This is one of the keys that you need to understand, and that is that the word affliction and tribulation are the same interchangeable words used. Like when Jesus taught in **Mark 13 in verses 19-23** he said the following.

¹⁹ **For in those days shall be affliction**, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

²⁰ And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

²¹ And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

²² For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

²³ But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

²⁴ **But in those days, after that tribulation**, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

²⁵ And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

²⁶ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

- ✓ **And if you look at Matthew 24:21**, concerning that same verse as that of verse 19 of Mark 13, instead of it saying affliction it says.....tribulation.

Matthew 24: ²¹ **For then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

- ✓ So it's easy to see that from the words of Jesus in Mark 13:19 and Matthew 24:21 that when Jesus himself described this situation he used the words Tribulation and affliction synonymously. (identical)
- ✓ That's why when we look back to 1 Thessalonians 3: in verses 3-4 we saw the words being used interchangeably. Look again.

1 Thessalonians 3:3-4: ³ That **no man should be moved by these afflictions**: for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto**. ⁴ **For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

- ✓ **Even in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1 in verse 6** this same word is brought up to describe the situation of those following Jesus.

⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, **having received the word in much affliction**, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

✚ Now lets go to 2 Thessalonians:

And let's continue with the same theme as regards to bible prophecy.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-9

⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:**

⁵ **Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:**

⁶ **Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;**

⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,**

⁸ **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

✚ We are not appointed to wrath, but we have this theme that we are appointed unto tribulation and affliction as we saw in 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4.

1. So we are going to be afflicted by man aren't we?
2. We are going to suffer tribulation at the hand of Man.
3. But we won't suffer the wrath of God.

The bible says, [2 Timothy 3:12](#) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.**

✚ **But as 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9** said⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

✚ **And in verse 7 it said ...**⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

4. So **God will not pour out his wrath upon the saved.** He will only pour out his wrath upon the unsaved.
5. And even if you look back at verse 4 in 2 Thessalonians 1. It says.....⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:**

✚ So he says, you going to go through tribulation, but you going to be spared the vengeance of God.

- ❖ This theme is spelled out over and over in both books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, and yet people still don't get it.
- ❖ People just want to go to the passage of 1 Thessalonians 4 which teaches on the rapture, and they just want to change the timing of the rapture to fall before the tribulation.

Question: But the question is where does it say that in the scripture? That the rapture is going to be before the tribulation? Huh.? In fact it says the opposite.

Answer: But instead in Matthew 24:29-31 it says that the rapture is after the tribulation.

Matthew 24:28-29

²⁹ **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened,** and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. *(this is exactly what Rev 6/7/14 tells us).*

1. People will try and say that this is speaking about the elect being the Jews?
2. But how is it possible when they say that 1 Thessalonians 4 is speaking about the gentile rapture?
3. So how can Mathew 24 be the rapture of the Jews when 1 Thessalonians 4 is speaking about the rapture of the Gentiles?
4. The books of Thessalonians is written to the gentiles. The Greeks.

Now another section of scripture that supports this is also found in 2 Thessalonians 1.

- ✓ 2 Thessalonians 2:1 also supports this coming in the clouds of Jesus in Matthew 24:28.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-8

¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him.

² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

1. So what he was saying is that don't let any man deceive you as if the day of Christ is at hand.
2. That you are not deceived by any man, who will say that Christ can come at any moment?

No.....that is not what the scriptures teach here in Thessalonians. It says that first there needs to come a falling away, and then that man of sin must be revealed.....who will set himself up in the temple of God.....and declaring himself to be God.

3. Only when that happens the scriptures say.....that Jesus will return.

4. So to say that Jesus can return at any minute or any second is not found in the scriptures, and it is not taught anywhere in the word of God.

✚ **So let me ask you a question:** Has that happened yet? Has the man of sin been revealed? Is he sitting in the temple here and now declaring himself to be God? Because if he was then Jesus would return swiftly as he said he would.

✚ **We don't see that antichrist sitting in the temple of God now.** We don't see that abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet now as Jesus referred to. Jesus said when you see these things then know that it is nigh even at the door. But that has not happened yet.

So why is it that so many people are deceived, as to think that the day of Christ can happen in a moment?

✚ **That Christ is going to come before the antichrist and the abomination?**

❖ It makes no sense, and does not line up with scriptures. It's simply because they don't know the books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians.

✓ **God did not want us to be ignorant of his return** and that's why he told us through the Apostle Paul that we should not sorrow but be ready.

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

¹⁴ **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

¹⁵ **For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

¹⁶ **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

¹⁷ **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

¹⁸ **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

- ✓ Isn't it a comfort to know what the Lord said. That how we are to know when he is coming? And how that we are to be ready?
- ✓ Jesus gave us the sequence of events leading up to his return?

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

- Therefore now that we know these things about what is being taught in the book of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, we can now go into the book of 1st Thessalonians 1, and know what is being taught here and not just some mumbo jumbo, of what people would like it to say?
- And as we go through these books verse by verse we will see for ourselves the truths that God wants us to know, and not just things that people would have us to believe.

So next time when we meet we will dive straight into 1 Thessalonians 1, and we will be able to see these clear scriptures now that we have an insight of the whole of these 2 books.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....