

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, October 22, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 37 | 2 Thessalonians: Keep Going!

2 Thessalonians (Acts 17:1-15)

Keep **GOING**;

expect persecution 1:3-6 Matthew 24:9; 2 Timothy 3:12

Jesus will make it right 1:7-12 Hebrews 4; Revelation 21:4

Jesus *will* **RETURN**,

don't get distracted with speculation 2:1-12 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; Matthew 24:4-8; 1 Tim. 1:3-7

stand firm! stay focused! have hope! 2:13-3:5 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Matthew 24:13-14; Titus 2:13

don't stop **WORKING** until he does!

don't get lazy 3:6-15 1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Tim. 5:8, 13; Proverbs 6:6; 14:23; 24:30-34

don't grow weary in doing good 3:13 Romans 12:11; Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Text us at **833-271-8805**.
Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.
Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



PAUL'S 2ND LETTER TO THE *Thessalonians*

Each time Paul wraps up his ministry to a church or individual in Acts whom he later writes a letter to, we'll take a week to give an overview of what he wrote to them. **This week we're in 2 Thessalonians.**

Where in Acts? Acts 17:1-15

Why did Paul write them?

Continuing his theme from 1 Thessalonians, Paul wrote again to encourage them to remain steadfast in their faith when life was hard. He reminded them that God would repay their persecutors. He also addresses rampant speculation and false teaching about Jesus's return, and admonishes them not to be idle in the mean time!

Key Verse

1:6-7 – God is just, Jesus will repay
3:10-13 – work while you wait

Basic Outline

SECTION 1:
The hope of Christ's return (1:1-2:17)
SECTION 2:
Living in light of Christ's return (3:1-18)

Key Topics

- Enduring persecution
- Jesus's return
- Lazy Christians

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. If you could be a back-up singer for any band, who would it be?
2. What is the best concert you've ever been to? (Got a worst one, too?)

Priming the Pump...

- As you think back on this week's message, what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. .

1. **Read Chapter 1 of 2 Thessalonians.** Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that the relief from the severe suffering they were experiencing would only come when Jesus returns, not before. So, when we suffer, we shouldn't judge God's love, power and goodness by anything other than what Jesus did for us on the cross.

- What does Paul say about suffering in 2 Thessalonians 1?
- What role has suffering played in your life?



- Share some of your experience with and various times of suffering with your group. (Talking about it can be a help to others and healing to you!)



- When you face trials and suffering, are you able to view them as a tool to build character (**see James 1:2-4**)?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? Am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What is the fruit of the Spirit in my life?
- 2 | **Responding To God.** Am I worshipping Jesus or something else? Am I talking and listening to God regularly? Am I repenting of my sin?
- 3 | **Receiving From Others.** How am I in community with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How am I *contributing* to and *initiating* community with other Christians in our church or just consuming?
- 5 | **Going Out on Mission.** How am I regularly moving out toward those far from God, loving them and sharing God's Story and my own story?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁰ **Even when** we were with you, we **gave** you a **rule**. We **said**, "**Anyone** who will not **work** will not eat." ¹¹ We **hear** that **some people** among you don't **want** to **work**. They aren't **really busy**.

Instead, they are **bothering others**. ¹² We **belong** to the **Lord Jesus Christ**. So we **strongly command people like** that to **settle** down. They have to **earn the food** they eat. ¹³ **Brothers and sisters**, don't **ever** get **tired of doing the right thing**.

S B R O U I S A I D A S L
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life groups Study Guide (continued)

2. **Read Chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians.** The Thessalonians were guilty of rampant speculation when it came to Christ's return. We need to remember that the Bible wasn't given to answer all our questions about end times, but to help us become more like Jesus.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 to see the role the Bible is supposed to play in our lives. Circle, highlight, underline, note what you see...

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (NIV)

- What are one or two things you could do to allow God to use the Bible in the way it was designed to be used in your life?

3. **Read Chapter 3 of 2 Thessalonians.** Some of the Thessalonians had decided to stop working. They didn't understand the purpose of work. Maybe they thought since Jesus was returning they wouldn't have to any longer? One major purpose of work is to allow us to have something to share with others. Christians should be the hardest workers by going the extra mile and serving others.

- How's your work ethic? Are you going the extra mile both to have something to share and to make God look good?
- How can you avoid getting lazy? At work? At your faith?
- Is there a key to "not growing weary in doing good"? How can you encourage one another in this? (**Hebrews 10:25**)

Close

*As you close, take time to pray for each other. Pray for each other's mindset this week and think of ways you can encourage each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.*



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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2 THESSALONIANS (ACTS 17:1-15)



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