

# INTRODUCTION TO SECOND THESSALONIANS

February 6, 1994

## I. GENERAL

- A. Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians church is classified as eschatological.
- B. The letter further advances the teaching concerning the Day of the Lord.
- C. In this connection Paul targets in his teaching the rise and fall of the Antichrist.

## II. THE PLACE AND DATE OF 2 THESSALONIANS

- A. This letter, like First Thessalonians, was written during Paul's Corinthian ministry (March 51AD - September 52AD).
- B. The date was sometime during Paul's stay at Corinth.

## III. PURPOSE

- A. Commendation: As in his first letter, Paul commends the church for their steadfastness and love under continued persecution.
- B. Correction: The primary purpose, or immediate occasion, for writing a second letter was to counter false teaching that they were exposed to respecting the Day of the Lord, and to deal with those who refused to work.

## IV. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- A. This is the shortest of Paul's nine letters to churches.
- B. The church continued to face intense persecution from society.
- C. Believers continued to exhibit love to each other.
- D. They are promised vindication at the Parousia of Christ.
- E. They were exposed to fraudulent teaching that they were in the Tribulation.
- F. There are four prayer wishes in the letter.
- G. Paul tells believers to separate from believers who refuse to work and who refuse to follow his teaching in these letters.

## V. GENERAL OUTLINE

- A. Salutation, 1:1,2.
- B. Encouragement under persecution, 2:3-12.
- C. Correction concerning the Day of the Lord, 2:1-12.
- D. Thanksgiving for their standing in the Plan of God, 2:13,14.
- E. A call to stand fast and a prayer wish, 2:15-17.
- F. Exhortations, encouragement and a prayer wish, 3:1-5.
- G. Paul's directive to separate from the "unruly", 3:6-15.
- H. Benediction and conclusion, 3:16-18.