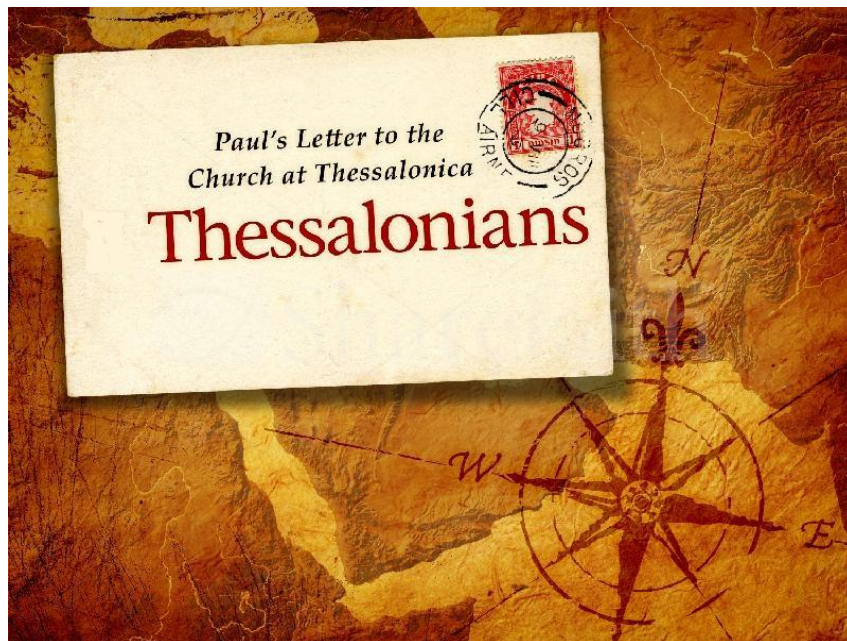


Study Notes on



by W. W. Patterson

Former missionary to Indonesia, Bible Teacher
and pastor of Seattle's old Bethel Temple

I THESSALONIANS

Written by the Apostle Paul from Corinth (or Athens) about 54 A.D.

The Theme of I and II Thessalonians is "the Coming of the Lord", or "Christ, our Hope."

The Founding of the church. Acts 17:1-10.

After preaching in Philippi and experiencing persecution Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica.

Paul preached Christ in the Synagogue.

Some believed of the Jews and a great multitude of devout Greeks, also a number of chief women. (vs. 4)

The unbelieving Jews caused an uproar, assaulting the house of Jason.

They brought Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city.

Paul and Silas went to Berea and preached there.

The Jews of Thessalonica caused further trouble at Berea by stirring up the people.

Note: Aristarchus and Secundus, two brethren from Thessalonica, travelled with Paul. Acts 20:4; 27:2; Philemon 24; Col. 4:10.

I Thess. The Theme is the Coming of the Lord for the believers.

II Thess. The Theme is the Coming of the Lord in judgment on the unbelieving.

The Key Verse -- 1:10.

The Key Word -- Come (or Coming) 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:2; 5:23.

During the brief ministry of Paul and Thessalonica he had taught great doctrines of the Bible.

CHAPTER I True Conversion and the Coming of the Lord.

Salutations. Paul, Silas and Timothy, the three had labored in Thessalonica.

Prayer. Thanksgiving for them. vs. 2.

vs. 1

True conversion brings: vs. 3-10.

1. Faith)
2. Love) of I Cor. 13:13
3. Hope)

Work of 1. Faith vs. 3-9b

- a. The Gospel came in power to turn to God from idols.
- b. With much affliction
- c. With joy in the Holy Ghost
- d. They became examples

Labor of 2. Love vs. 9c

- a. To serve the living and true God.
Having turned from idols.

Patience of 3. Hope vs. 10

- a. To wait for His Son from heaven.
- b. Deliverance from wrath to come.

CHAPTER 2 The True Minister (or Ministry) and the Coming of the Lord.

I The True Minister - Steadfast. vs. 1-2

The ministry was not in vain. It was fruitful.

Persecuted but bold in our God.

W. W. Patterson, teacher

I Thessalonians, Con'd.

II The True Minister and His Ministry - Pure and full of Love. vs. 3-18

A. Negatively 3-6

1. Not of deceit
2. Not of uncleanness
3. Not of guile
4. Not as pleasing men but God - as stewards of God. 4a
5. Not using flattering words
6. Not using a cloak of covetousness
7. Not seeking glory of men, of you, or of others, not officious when we could have used authority as apostles.

B. But we were positively vs. 7-11

1. Gentle - as a nurse cherisheth her children
2. Loving vs. 8
3. Laboring and travailling
4. Holy, just and unblameable behavior
5. Exhorting, comforting, charging everyone as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God.

C. Results of the true ministry vs. 12-16

That ye:

1. Would walk worthy of God
who hath called you unto this kingdom and glory.
2. Receive the Word of God
not as the word of men but in truth, the Word of God which effectually worketh in you.
3. Become followers of the churches of God
in suffering persecution with fellow believers in Judea.
The Jews: a. killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets
b. persecuted the apostles
c. pleased not God
d. contrary to all men
e. forbidding the ministry to the gentiles
4. That the ministers: vs. 17-18
might have further ministry and fellowship
though hindered by Satan from doing so.

III The True Minister's Reward vs. 19-20

The converts are the minister's

Hope)
Joy and) At the Coming, "Parousia",
Crown of rejoicing) of the Lord.
Glory)

We shall see and know one another at the coming of the Lord.

CHAPTER 3 True Steadfastness until the Coming of the Lord.

I The Apostle's Concern for their Steadfastness. vs. 1-5

- A. Sent Timothy to establish and comfort them. vs. 1-2
- B. Believers are to be tested and tried. vs. 3-4; John 16:33; James 1:2-3; II Cor. 4:17-18.
- C. Steadfastness essential. vs. 5.

W. W. Patterson, teacher

I Thessalonians, Con'd.

- II The Apostle's Comfort over their Steadfastness. vs. 6-13.
 - A. Timothy's good report. vs. 6, of their faith and charity (love).
 - B. Their steadfastness - the apostle's life and joy. vs. 7-9.
 - C. The Apostle's desire to see them again. vs. 10-11.
 - The intensity (depth) of true love in Christ.
 - To perfect what was lacking.

- III The Apostle's Goal (Consummation) for their steadfastness. vs. 12-13.
 - A. Steadfast until the coming of the Lord.
 - (Stablished)
 - 1. By the Lord
 - 2. By love
 - 3. Unto holiness

CHAPTER 4

- I True Holiness and the Coming of the Lord. vs. 1-12.
 - (3:13 introduces this)
 - A. True holiness in morality (our bodies) - sexual relations vs. 1-8 in bodily purity.
 - Abstain from fornication. Eccl. 10:1; Prov. 2:16-19; Prov. 5; Prov. 6: 23-35; Prov. 7. Cf. Acts 15:29; I Cor. 6:13b-20.
 - Sanctification and honour
 - not
 - Fleshly lust and uncleanness.
 - Contrast fleshly love (so called) with True Godly Love.
 - A solemn warning. vs. 8 of I Cor. 3:16-17
 - I Cor. 6:13-20
 - B. True holiness in Brotherly Love. vs. 9-10.
 - to the brethren
 - Love one another John 13:34-35

 - Tertullian (192 A.D.) "The heathen often exclaim in wonder, "See how these Christians love one another." Luolian (about the same time), a heathen, wrote "It is incredible to see the fervor with which the people of that religion help each other in their wants. They spare nothing. Their first legislator (i.e. the Lord Jesus) has put it into their heads that they are all brethren."
 - C. True holiness to all men. vs. 11-12.
 - 1. Quiet - study, endeavoring earnestly
 - 2. Diligent - do your own business
 - 3. Work - manual labor. Titus 3:8
 - 4. Honest - walk becomingly
 - 5. Sufficiency - not sponging off of others. Titus 3:14; I Tim. 5:8 even though some of these men might persecute you.

- II True consolation (comfort) in the coming of the Lord. vs. 13-18
 - A. Sorrow with hope
 - B. The Death and Resurrection of The Lord Jesus is the basis for the resurrection of all believers. (I Cor. 15:1-5)
 - C. The Dead in Christ shall rise first.
 - All believers from Adam till His Coming.
 - D. Then the Living in Christ rise.
 - All together with the Lord.

I Thessalonians, Con'd.

- E. The Manner of the Coming of the Lord.
1. The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven. Acts 1:11
As Jehovah-Redeemer
 2. With a shout. A shout of command, as Captain
 3. The voice of the archangel. Cf. Jude 9. As Leader of the angels
 4. The Trump of God. I Cor. 15:52. As the Summons of Deity
This tells us when it shall happen.
 5. The Dead in Christ rise first. I Cor. 15:20-23; Job 19:25-27
 6. The Living in Christ then rise. Phil. 3:21
 7. Together in the clouds with Christ. As He went up a cloud
received Him. Acts 1:10. We shall meet Him in the clouds.
 8. Ever with the Lord. "And thus always with the Lord we shall
be." Inter.
- F. Comfort one another. vs. 18.

CHAPTER 5 True Preparation for the Coming of the Lord.

I Watch for the Coming of the Lord. vs. 10

Watchfulness essential

- A. Because of the Suddenness of His coming. vs. 1-3
1. As a thief in the night.
 2. When the world is unprepared and rests in a false security.
- B. As children of the day be prepared. vs. 4-10.
Children of day (light) contrasted with children of night (darkness)

Watch - Mark 13:32-37 Contrast - sleep
Sober - Contrast - drunken

As soldiers vs. 8

Breastplate of faith and love

Helmet - the hope of salvation

Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

And living together with Him - contrast with wrath.

II Practical exhortations in preparation for His coming. vs. 11-28.

- A. Comfort (exhort) yourselves. vs. 11a
- B. Edify one another vs. 11b
- C. Have the proper attitude toward the ministry. vs. 12-13a
- D. Be at peace vs. 13b
- A number of exhortations - all showing the proper attitude
and holy conduct in view of the coming of the Lord. vs. 14-28.

Loving God and loving our neighbor will fulfill all these
exhortations.

II THESSALONIANS

Written by Paul soon after the first epistle. About 54 A.D.
The Theme is the Coming of the Lord in Judgment on the unbeliever.

Key Verse 1:7-10

Key Word come or coming 1:10; 2:1; 2:8

Note the Name "Lord Jesus Christ". The full Name is used.

9 times in I Thessalonians 1:1; 1:1; 1:3; 2:19; 3:11; 3:13; 5:9; 5:23; 5:28.

Also note I Thess. 4:14-17 Jesus Lord Christ.

11 times in II Thess. 1:1; 1:2; 1:8; 1:12; 2:1; 2:14; 2:16; 3:6; 3:12; 3:18.

"Lord" I Thess. 1:6; 1:8; 3:8; 3:12; 4:6; 4:15; 4:15; 4:16; 4:17; 4:17; 5:2; 5:12; 5:27.

II Thess. 1:9; (2:2 R.V.) 2:8; 2:13; 3:1; 3:3; 3:4; 3:5; 3:16; 3:16.

"Lord Jesus" I Thess. 2:15; 4:1; 4:2.

II Thess. 1:7.

The total number of times the word "Lord" is used:

25 times in I Thess.

21 times in II Thess.

46 total

CHAPTER 1. Persecutions and the Coming of the Lord.

I Salutation vs. 1-2 From the Apostle Paul and two fellow laborers. The Church - "the called out" - We know God our Father through the new birth in our Lord Jesus Christ.

II Persecutions vs. 3-12.

A The State (condition) of the Church. vs. 3-4.

1. Faith grows

2. Love abounds cf. I Thess. 1:3

3. Hope endures I Cor. 13:13

B Persecutions consummated (ended) at His Coming. 5-12

1. For the persecuted believer

comfort

salvation

2. For the persecutor

vengeance

destruction

CHAPTER 2 The Coming of Antichrist and the Coming of the Lord

These things were taught by Paul when he was with them for three weeks.

I Antichrist will come before the coming of the Lord. vs. 1-12.

A The Coming (parousia) of Christ - our gathering together to Him.

vs. 1. I Thess. 4:17; I Cor. 15:51-54.

B The Falling away first. vs. 2-3a.

The Apostasy of the last days. Rev. 12:1-4; I Tim. 4:1-3

Greek - Apostasia - a falling away.

C The Antichrist revealed vs. 3b-12

1. Who is he?

a. That man of sin - contrast Christ as the righteous one

b. The son of perdition. cf. John 17:12.

c. Opposing all other religions.

d. Exalting himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped. "Thus religion in every form, idolatry as well as the worship of the true God, will fall under the ban of antichrist."

II THESSALONIANS, Con'd.

- e. Sits in the Temple of God.
The Greek word for temple is "naos".
Cf. I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19; II Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21.
Note: I John 2:18-19. The believers, the Church, is the Temple of God.
 - f. As God - Deity John 5:43.
 - g. That Wicked (Lawless One) Contrast Christ the Holy One (the Righteous One).
2. How does he come?
- a. Mystery of iniquity (lawlessness) works. The Wicked One will be revealed - an unveiling, an apocalypse. vs. 3c, 8a.
 - b. The Restraining Power of the Holy Ghost removed. vs. 6, 7b.
Rev. 12 - When the Church goes out, the Holy Spirit goes with her.
Rev. 13 - Then Antichrist will be revealed.
 - c. The working of Satan with all power (dunamis) and signs and lying wonders. Deception. vs. 9.
 - d. A strong delusion - they believe a lie. vs. 11.
Because they believe not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
Rev. 13 gives the full picture of Antichrist.

3. What is his end?

- a. The Lord shall consume him with the Spirit (breath) of His mouth. vs. 8b. Cf. Isaiah 11:4.
- b. And shall destroy (him) with the Brightness of His Coming. vs. 8c; Rev. 19:20; 20:20; 17:8-11.

II The Victory of the Believers 2:13-17.

A Chosen and called by God vs. 13-14.

1. To salvation

- a. Through sanctification of the Spirit.
- b. Belief of the truth, the Word. Cf. John 4:24.

2. To the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 17:24; I John 3:2; Phil. 3:21.

B. Stand fast vs. 15. Literally "stand firm" - "hold fast".

C. Comforted and established vs. 16-17.

- 1. In every good Word
- 2. In every good Work

CHAPTER 3 Practical Preparations for the Coming of the Lord

I Prayer for the Ministry vs. 1-2.

II The Power of the Lord to keep us. vs. 3.

III Obedience to Apostolic Doctrine, vs. 4.

IV The Love of God and the Patient Waiting for Christ, vs. 5.

V Orderly conduct, vs. 6-15.

A Withdrawal from the disorderly, vs. 6, 14-15.

B Follow the apostolic example of Holy life and work, vs. 7-9.

C Work! vs. 10-13.

VI Benediction vs. 16-18

The Peace of the Lord.

The Lord be with you all.