

Chi Alpha
Context Resource
2 Thessalonians

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(use this as a reference throughout the plan)

Always ask, "How does this point/relate back to the Gospel?" throughout everything you read.

Author and setting are the same at 1 Thessalonians.

Background:

- Two decades after Jesus of Nazareth completed His earthly mission by means of His atoning death, victorious resurrection, and royal ascension.
- Paul is still on his second missionary journey in Corinth. (It lasted about 18 months)
- Perhaps the bearer of the first letter brought Paul back an update on the condition of the church, which had matured and expanded; but pressure and persecution had also increased
- Seeds of false doctrine concerning the Lord's return had been sown, and people's behavior was disorderly
- So, Paul wrote to his beloved flock who were:
 1. Discouraged by persecution and needed incentive to persevere (chapter 1)
 2. Deceived by false teachers who confused them about the Lord's return (eschatology) (chapter 2)
 3. Disobedient to divine commands, particularly refusing to work (chapter 3)
- Paul was intent on spotlighting Jesus' Lordship over human history and individual lives
- 2 Thess 1 - Thanksgiving and comfort for the persecuted Thessalonians
- 2 Thess 2 - Refuting the false claim about the day of the Lord
- 2 Thess 3 - The problem of the idlers