

Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday Night Bible Study Plan

"Journey towards Spiritual Maturity"

Study Cycle



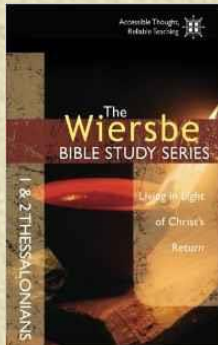
Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday Night Bible Study Plan

"Journey towards Spiritual Maturity"

Discipleship – keeping it real

1. Thessalonians 1 & 2

- Lessons 1 – 8: Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, Living in Light of Christ Return



We know God calls us to be disciples and to make disciples, but all too often we don't know what steps to take to do this well. As a result, countless young men in ministries across the world are left to find their own way and are often swallowed up in sin. This needs to change! Satan has declared war on young men and it is time to teach them how to fight back. Let this resource be a starting point for you in formulating a plan for strategic and intentional discipleship.

The Thessalonian church was struggling with an unbalanced approach to the Second Coming. While they eagerly awaited Christ's return, many believers were placing more value on their future hope than on peoples' current needs. Paul addressed this concern with a message that still resonates today. This study examines Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians and shares the need for a church that is focused on both heaven and earth.

Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday Night Bible Study Plan

"Journey towards Spiritual Maturity"

Discipleship – keeping it real

Lesson	Title/Scriptures	Page	Date
Lesson 1	The Church (I Thessalonians 1)	13	24-Jan-17
Lesson 2	Growing Up (I Thessalonians 2)	29	31-Jan-17
Lesson 3	Standing Strong (I Thessalonians 3)	45	7-Feb-17
Lesson 4	Faith and Hope (I Thessalonians 4)	59	14-Feb-17
Lesson 5	Sleepwalking (I Thessalonians 5)	77	21-Feb-17
Lesson 6	The Wicked (2 Thessalonians 1)	93	28-Feb-17
Lesson 7	In God's Time (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)	109	7-Mar-17
Lesson 8	Truth (2 Thessalonians 2:13 -- 3-18)	125	14-Mar-17

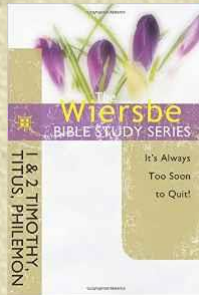
Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday Night Bible Study Plan

"Journey towards Spiritual Maturity"

Leadership - Lead, follow or get out the way

1. Timothy 1 & 2, Philemon and Titus

- Lessons 1 – 8: Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, It's Always Too Soon to Quit



Godly Leadership is essential to the life of every church call out by God with a mission of spreading the Gospel to the four corners of the earth. We often look to those who God has placed in leadership role as the gatekeepers of faith. However, God has call every believer in some fashion to be a leader. Once we have been call by God, quitting is not an option. We may quit on God, but God will never quit on us. He who has begun a great "Work" in you shall preform it until the day of Jesus Christ. This "Work" in you must be led by you.

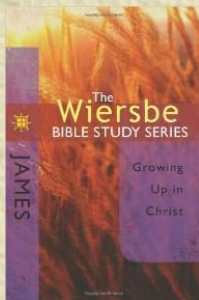
Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday Night Bible Study Plan

"Journey towards Spiritual Maturity"

Spiritual Maturity - Just Do it!

1. James – Christian Maturity

- Lessons 1 – 8 : Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, James: Growing Up in Christ



The powerful message of James' letter to the church is as relevant today as when he originally wrote it—though it is still as challenging to hear. Many of our problems in life stem from our own spiritual immaturity. However, our spiritual life doesn't end there; God has more planned for us. He wants us to grow up, not just grow old.

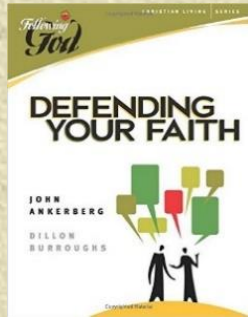
Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday Night Bible Study Plan

"Journey towards Spiritual Maturity"

Defending Your Faith (Following God Christian Living Series)

All Fifth Tuesdays or once a Quarter Lessons will come from

2017: March, June, September, December



Each lesson of this twelve-week interactive Following God study takes a look at a different controversy regarding the Christian faith. Readers will be equipped to share their beliefs as they speak with others on spiritual matters. But more importantly, readers will be able to confidently live out their faith with the information from these truths.

In the pages of this study, you will find accurate and insightful advice for:

- Knowing the basis for your faith
- Understanding the development and accuracy of God's Word
- Explaining the factual basis behind the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

General Overview Thessalonians



I & II THESSALONIANS



Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians

- ✧ Thessalonica was a Roman colony and very important in the life of the Roman Empire.
- ✧ It was located 100 miles west of Philippi and about 200 miles north of Athens and was the chief city of Macedonia.
- ✧ It was first named Therma because of hot springs in that area.
- ✧ In 316 B.C. Cassander (who succeeded Alexander the Great) named it in memory of his wife, Thessalonike, a half sister of Alexander the Great.
- ✧ Thessalonica is still in existence, and the present-day name is Salonika.
- ✧ The church in Thessalonica was a model church. Paul cited it to the Corinthians as an example (see 1 Thessalonians 1:7; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

Thessalonica Location



Paul's Trip to Thessalonica

On the 2nd Missionary Journey—after passing through Lystra and Derbe and picking up Timothy—Paul, Silas, and Luke cross over the Aegean Sea. On their way to Europe, they quickly pass through Samothrace and Neapolis before arriving at Philippi. Chapter 16 of Acts of the Apostles details the Macedonian call and ministry in Philippi.



Paul's Trip to Thessalonica

After the incident with the Philippian Jailer, St. Paul and company leave and head to Thessalonica. They remain there for at least “three Sabbaths” so that “some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.”



Acts of the Apostles 17:2,4

When was 1&2 Thessalonians Written

A big key to answering these questions is found in one of the most over-looked verses in the entire letter.

“Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Thessalonians 1:1 and II Thessalonians 1:1



When was 1&2 Thessalonians Written

When were Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy together after Paul's visit to Thessalonica?

- Silvanus and Silas are the same person!
- Paul left Silas & Timothy at Berea (17:14)
- Silas & Timothy rejoin Paul in Corinth (18:5)
- When he leaves Corinth, Paul takes Aquila & Priscilla with him, not Silas & Timothy. (18:18)

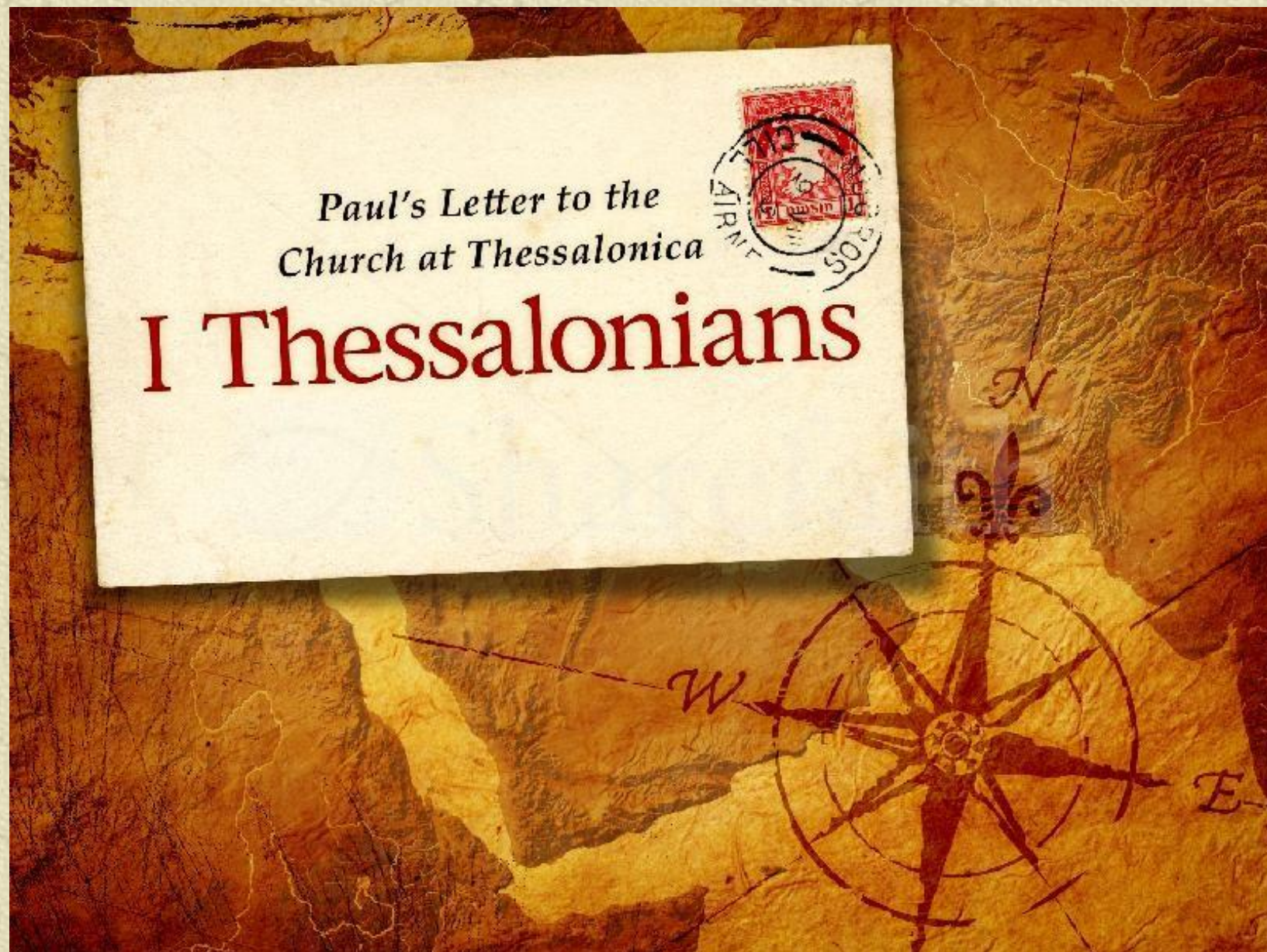
Acts of the Apostles 17:2,4

When was 1&2 Thessalonians Written

The most likely time St. Paul could have written both letters to the Thessalonians was during his 18 month stay in Corinth during the 2nd Missionary Journey.

This means I & II Thessalonians may very well be the oldest of the Pauline writings in the Bible.

Acts of the Apostles 17:2,4



Historical Background to 1 Thessalonians

- Paul, Silas and Timothy were the first to share the Gospel in Thessalonica, where many Jews and Gentiles came to believe and follow Jesus (Acts 17:1-4). Very quickly, Paul and the others faced persecution and even violent danger from the Jewish community there (Acts 17:5 - 6; 1Thess 1:6; 2:2). Thus, Paul was forced to leave the city prematurely (Acts 17:9 - 10)
- Paul was concerned for these new believers, so he sent Timothy to them a few months later (1Thess 3:1 - 2), who brought back a good report to him (3:6 - 10). The report did relay some big questions and problems the church faced, and in this letter Paul addresses those issues.
- The questions related to the timing and meaning of Jesus' return, what happens to believers who die before Jesus' return, and how believers should live as they wait for that day. Paul's letter mentions the coming of Jesus in every chapter, and shows how Paul connected Christian hope with every day living.

Summary of Main themes in 1Thessalonians

- Paul encourages the Thessalonians for growing in their faith (1:1-8), and turning from idols to follow Jesus and wait for his coming (1:9-10). Paul wants them to see that hardship and suffering can be expected in the journey of following Jesus, and that persecution will likely continue for them, though God will be faithful to them (2:1-16). Paul longed to know that the believers were doing all right (3:1-10), and now prays that God help them increase in living holy lives, loving and serving each other (3:11-12).
- He challenges them that sexual purity is crucial to following Jesus (4:1-8), along with serving each other (4:9-12). He clarifies their questions about the return of Jesus: believers who have died will be raised from the dead at the second coming, and greet Jesus with all other believers when he comes to establish his kingdom (4:13-17). They should not pay attention to false announcements of Jesus' return, but simply be faithful in daily living and wait for Jesus' return (5:1-11). No one should ignore normal daily responsibilities while waiting for Jesus' return, but they should live peaceably and pursue the common good in the meantime (5:12-24).

Significant Things to Look For

Jesus' Return: Paul talks more about Jesus' return in this letter than any other (he mentions it in every chapter), and so he demonstrates how the hope of Jesus's coming should permeate every aspect of a Christian's thinking and living: it offers hope of reward for sacrifice (2:19-20) and inspires holy living (3:12-13; 5:23-24) and rejection of idolatry (1:9-10). It also should transform how Christians grieve for the dead (4:13-17). It should not cause fear or worry or speculation (5:1-3), but should motivate a life of service to others and to Christ (5:4-11).

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



II Thessalonians

Key Historical Background to 2 Thessalonians

- Paul wrote this letter shortly after 1 Thessalonians: he had received a troubling report (3:11) that certain problems in the church had gotten worse, and that their speculation about Jesus' return had increased and become out of control (2:1-2).
- In specific, some Thessalonian Christians came to believe that the “day of the Lord” (see 1Thess 5:1-2) had already taken place, and that the return of Jesus was imminent or that they had missed it (!). As a result, many of them were frightened (2:2), and were still undergoing persecution (1:4). Also, the problem of some people being “idle” and not working to support themselves had gotten worse (3:6-15, see 1Thess 5:12-14).

Summary of Main Themes in 2 Thessalonians

- Paul prays that the faith of the Thessalonian Christians will endure their suffering (1:3-4). He encourages them that the return of Jesus will bring justice against those who oppose him and persecute his people (1:5-10), and so they should have courage and faith (1:11-12). They should not be afraid or speculate about the return of Jesus (2:1-2): his return will be preceded by times of great trial and difficulty (2:3), and by the rebellion of world leaders against God (2:3-4; here Paul draws on language from Daniel 11:36-37, an ancient description of the world rebellion before the messiah's coming).
- Whoever that leader of the world rebellion may be, God will defeat him at Jesus' return (2:5-12). This hope should foster courage and faith (2:13-17). It should also motivate Christians to work hard and pursue the common good, not to become lazy as if Jesus' return means that daily life is irrelevant (3:1-12). Hope in Jesus' return should motivate good works (3:13).

A Contrast Between 1 and 2 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians
Coming <i>for</i> saints	Coming <i>with</i> saints
Rapture (in air)	Revelation (on earth)
Nature of Christ's coming	Time of Christ's coming
Nurse's tenderness	Father's discipline
Commendation	Condemnation
Coming of Christ	Coming of Anti-Christ

Cont'd Contrast Between 1 and 2 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians
How the Thessalonians received the Word of God	Mentions their progress in faith, love, and patience
Teaches the imminent return of the Lord	Corrects false teaching about His coming
Comforts and encourages the saints	Assures coming judgment on Christ's foes
Concerns the Church	Concerns Satan, Anti-Christ, the world
Presents great passage on end time (4:13-18)	Present great passage on end time (2:1-2)
Presents the Day of Christ (4:13-18)	Presents the Day of the Lord (2:2)

2 Phases of the End Time and the Return of Christ

1 st Phase (Rapture)	2 nd Phase (Revelation)
Christ comes to claim His bride, His Church	Christ returns with His bride
Christ comes in the air	Christ returns to the earth
The tribulation begins	The millennial kingdom is established
Translation is imminent	A multitude of signs precede
A message of comfort is given	A message of judgment is given
The program for the Church is emphasized	The program for Israel and the world is emphasized
Translation is a mystery	Revelation is predicted in both Testaments
Believers are judged	Gentiles and Israel are judged
Israel's covenants are not yet fulfilled	All of Israel's covenants are fulfilled
Believers only are affected	All people are affected
The Church is taken into the Lord's presence	Israel is brought into the kingdom