



Study Guide

Lesson 8

“Walk Through Trials on God’s Timetable”

The Christians in Thessalonica were grateful to God for Paul’s first letter, but it did not immediately solve all their problems. In fact, the persecution grew worse and some believers thought they were living in the moments just before the coming of the Lord. Then a letter arrived claiming to be from Paul, stating that the Day of the Lord had already come. Needless to say, the assembly was confused and frightened by this prospect.

Some of the believers concluded that since the Lord’s coming was so near, they ought to quit their jobs and spend their time waiting for Him. This meant that the other members were under an extra burden to care for them. Satan was working overtime; as the lion, he was seeking to devour (1 Peter 5:7–8), and as the serpent, he was seeking to deceive (2 Cor. 11:3).

It was in response to these needs that Paul wrote his second letter. He began with their most pressing need, the persecution they were experiencing because of their faith. In this first chapter, Paul shared three encouragements with his suffering friends.

The Encouragement of Praise **1:1-4**

Four phrases catch our attention:

1. Their _____ was growing (1:3a)
2. Their _____ was abounding (1:3b)
3. Their _____ was increasing (1:4)
4. Their _____ was helping others (1:4a)

The Encouragement of Promise **1:5-10**

Three experiences are involved in the promises of God for His people:

1. _____ (1:5)
2. _____ (1:6, 7b-9)
3. _____ (1:7a, 10)

The Encouragement of Prayer **1:11-12**

Paul’s concern manifested itself in three concerns which were addressed in his prayer:

1. Their _____ (1:11a)
2. Their _____ (1:11b)
3. Their _____ (1:12)

God’s Timetable Set Forth **2:1-12**

1. The coming of the Lord has not _____ (2:1-3)
2. The coming of the Lord will not take place until the man of _____ appears. (2:4-8)
3. God will send a delusion to those who refuse to believe so they will believe in a _____ and be _____ because they have not believed the _____ but delighted in _____. (2:12)