

The Book of 2 Thessalonians

14

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading the book of **2 Thessalonians**, but before we do, let's acquaint ourselves a little with Paul's purpose in writing this letter.

Because Paul's second letter to the Thessalonian Christians shows a remarkable similarity to Paul's first letter, it is believed that it was written not long after, maybe around six months later. It is possible that Paul penned this second letter in Corinth, not long after Silas and Timothy had returned after delivering the first letter.

The format of the second letter, and its purpose, matches his first letter quite closely. Paul writes:

- ➔ To encourage the new converts in the trials they were facing (**1:4-10**) (note **1 Thessalonians 3:3-5**)
- ➔ To encourage them to "stand firm and hold to the teachings passed on" to them (**2:13-3:15**) (note **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**)
- ➔ To correct an error concerning the Lord's return (**2:1-12**) (note **1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**)

Like Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, this letter focuses on the return of Christ and issues arising from prophecy in this regard. In **2:1-2**, Paul writes:

"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come."

It is likely that it was the urgency of dealing with this question that prompted Paul to write his second letter so soon after the first. With this in mind, let's read through the whole book of **2 Thessalonians** in one sitting, and as you read, see if you can pick out what you would believe to be the key verse to the letter.

Memory Verse

May the Lord direct your hearts
into God's love and
Christ's perseverance.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!