

October 16–22

1 and 2 Thessalonians

“Perfect That Which Is Lacking in Your Faith”



Overview

Acts 17:1-4

[1] Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

[2] And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

[3] Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

[4] And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

1Thes 1:3-4

[3] Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

[4] Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

Obtaining a Testimony

1Thes 1:5-6

What do you think Paul meant when he said that they had received the gospel “in much assurance”?

Bruce R. McConkie

“The gospel had by the Saints of old included, first, the word, that is, the doctrines, principles, and laws, the statutes and judgments of the Lord.... [And] second, the power, the saving grace, the gifts of the Spirit, the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and that abundant testimony in which true Saints so delight.

“Paul also said that these things—the word and the power, which taken together comprise the true gospel.”
(CR, Oct. 1968)

2 Nephi 32:3,5

[3]... feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will *tell* you all things what ye should do.

[5] And... if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will *show* unto you all things what ye should do.

Obtaining a Testimony

1Thes 2:4-8

How did Paul approach the opportunity to preach the gospel?

Carlos E. Asay

"Paul spoke of affectionate desire and a willingness to give all; Alma recognized the worth of souls and a desire to cry repentance.... These scriptural accounts and others testify of a spirit-real, powerful, and compelling-that leads us to reach outward in preaching, teaching, and service. Such influences, combined as one, might be referred to as the spirit of one's calling."

(In the Lord's Service: A Guide to Spiritual Development, pg. 31)

Obtaining a Testimony

2Thes 2:13-14

What is a reason given by Paul that the saints had received a “belief of the truth”?

Bruce R. McConkie

"Our friend Paul... speaks of members of the Church as 'the called of Jesus Christ,' as those who are 'called to be saints' (Rom 1:6-7; 1Cor 1:2)...

"'God hath from the beginning,' that is, from before the foundations of the world, 'chosen you [his saints] to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ' (2Thes 2:13-14). That is, the saints were foreordained in the councils of eternity to believe the truth, to be sanctified, and to save their souls; and then in this life they are called to that gospel whereby these eternal promises can be fulfilled." (DNTC, 3:328)

Resurrection of the Just

1Thes 4:13-18

Who will be caught up to meet Christ at His second coming?

Sterling W. Sill

“At Christ's coming a great number of very exciting things are going to take place. He is not coming alone; as Paul says, he will come with his mighty angels. At his coming a great many of the faithful dead will be resurrected and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. And some of the righteous who are then living upon the earth will be changed from mortality to immortality in the twinkling of an eye to join that impressive company in the air. Certainly this is something to look forward to.”
(CR, April 1966)

Resurrection of the Just

1Thes 5:1-6

What do you think Paul meant by, “ye... are not in darkness... Ye are all the children of light”?

Erastus Snow

“We are called to be the children of light. Blessed are they who continue in the light, for the day of the Lord will not overtake them as a thief in the night; but woe unto them that depart from, or reject that light that shines in the midst of the darkness, for the day cometh and that speedily, when they will be overtaken as by a whirlwind. The command of the Lord to the Saints is to watch, for we know not the day nor the hour when the Son of man shall come. The precise time of his coming has not been revealed; the prophets were ignorant of it; it could not be declared to the apostles of the Lamb, and, indeed, the Savior said that not the angels, nor even he himself, knew the day or the hour of this important event.... These things have been spoken that the Saints should watch and not fall asleep.” (JD, 20:372)

Resurrection of the Just

2Thes 1:7-10

What will happen to the wicked who are alive at Christ's second coming?

Sterling W. Sill

"The first time he came as a man of sorrows who was acquainted with grief but the second time he will come as the mighty God. He came the first time as the Prince of Peace. He will come the second time as King of kings and Lord of lords. He came the first time to atone for our sins; he will come the second time to judge those sinners who have not repented. The Apostle Paul says, 'the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ' (2Thes 1:7-8)....

"This glorious second coming of Christ is scheduled to usher in the earth's Sabbath of a thousand years.... However, before this can happen, the wicked will be destroyed by fire and Satan will be bound." (CR, April 1966)

The Falling Away

2Thes 2:1-4

What do you think Paul means when he says that there will be, “a falling away first”?

James E. Faust

“With this falling away, priesthood keys were lost, and some precious doctrines of the Church organized by the Savior were changed. Among these were baptism by immersion; receiving the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands; the nature of the Godhead—that They are three distinct personages; all mankind will be resurrected through the Atonement of Christ, ‘both ... the just and the unjust’; continuous revelation—that the heavens are not closed; and temple work for the living and the dead.” (CR, April 2006)

The Falling Away

2Thes 2:5-9

JST 2Thes 2:9

Yea, the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until after there cometh a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders

What do you think Paul meant by, “the mystery of iniquity doth already work”?

Neal A. Maxwell

“New Testament epistles clearly indicate that serious and widespread apostasy began soon. James decried ‘wars and fightings among’ the Church (James 4:1). Paul lamented ‘divisions’ in the Church and how ‘grievous wolves’ would not spare ‘the flock’ (1Cor 11:18). He knew an apostasy was coming and wrote to the Thessalonians that Jesus’ second coming would not occur ‘except there come a falling away first,’ further advising that ‘iniquity doth already work’ (2Thes 2:3, 7).

“Near the end, Paul acknowledged how very extensive the falling away was: ‘All they which are in Asia be turned away from me’ (2Tim 1:15)....

“Widespread fornication and idolatry brought apostolic alarm. John and Paul both bemoaned the rise of false Apostles. The Church was clearly under siege. Some not only fell away but then openly opposed. In one circumstance, Paul stood alone and lamented that ‘all men forsook me’ (2Tim 4:16).” (CR, Oct. 1993)

The Importance of Good Works

1Thes 5:14-22

The Importance of Good Works

1Thes 4:3-7

Dallin H. Oaks

“We believe that, as an essential part of His plan of salvation, God has established an eternal standard that sexual relations should occur only between a man and a woman who are married.

“The power to create mortal life is the most exalted power God has given to His children. Its use was mandated by God’s first commandment to Adam and Eve but other important commandments were given to forbid its misuse. The emphasis we place on the law of chastity is explained by our understanding of the purpose of our procreative powers in the accomplishment of God’s plan.” (CR, Oct. 2013)

The Importance of Good Works

2Thes 3:7-13

Why is it important that we work for our own sustenance if possible?

Spencer W. Kimball

"The Lord's way builds individual self-esteem and develops and heals the dignity of the individual, whereas the world's way depresses the individual's view of himself and causes deep resentment.

"The Lord's way causes the individual to hasten his efforts to become economically independent again, even though he may have temporary need, because of special conditions, for help and assistance....

"The Lord's way helps our members get a testimony for themselves about the gospel of work. For work is important to human happiness as well as productivity."
(CR, April 1976)

Next Week:

October 23–29

1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon

“Be Thou an Example of the Believers”

