

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, the theme, justification by faith, is defended, explained, and applied. ¹

How can men (sinful by nature) come to God (holy by nature)? Paul's answer is this: There is only one way – accept the salvation God's grace makes available through Christ's death and resurrection. ¹

Day 324 – Galatians 1-3 ●

In Gal. 2:11-13 Paul rebukes Peter (Cephas), who withdrew from eating with uncircumcised Gentile believers under pressure from some of the Hebrew Christians.

Paul proclaimed the doctrine of justification by faith plus nothing, and of sanctification by the Holy Spirit, not the Mosaic Law. ¹

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20

What truth did Scripture foresee when it preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham (Galatians 3:6-9)?

“I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” Galatians 2:21

Day 325 – Galatians 4-6 ●

Those who habitually practice the deeds of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) will not inherit the kingdom of God. This type of lifestyle shows an unsaved condition.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. Galatians 6:7

List nine qualities produced by the Spirit in those who walk in dependence on Him (Galatians 5).

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

The author of this letter is most likely James, the half brother of Jesus, who became the recognized leader of the Jerusalem church.

Among the key subjects discussed are faith and works, the use of the tongue, and prayer for the sick. ¹

Day 326 - James •

The rich man is to glory in his humiliation (James 1:10) either by losing his money or by being brought to the realization that money means little and is at best transitory. ¹

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. James 1:27

What use is it if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? (James 2:14; 2:24)

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. James 5:16

Day 327 - Acts 16:1-18:11 •

A disagreement occurred such that Paul and Barnabas separated from one another. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. God brought good out of it in that two missionary teams were sent out. ¹

Paul's second missionary journey is detailed in Acts 15:36-18:22. During this journey Paul and Silas traveled 3000+ miles and were gone for 2 ½ years. In Lystra, Timothy enlisted as Paul's assistant.

A vision appeared to Paul one night calling him to preach the gospel to the Macedonians (Europe).

In Philippi, Paul and Silas were thrown in prison. About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God. Suddenly there came a great earthquake. The next morning the city officials sent word to the jailer to turn the prisoners, Paul and Silas, loose.

Acts 17 describes Paul's ministry in three cities and how some of the people responded to the Word of God. As we seek to witness for Christ today, this passage helps us understand what to expect. ²

- Thessalonica: Resisting the Word (17:1-9)
- Berea: Receiving the Word (17:10-15)
- Athens: Ridiculing the Word (17:16-34)

Note that Luke remained in Philippi and continued to minister there. Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. Paul and some brothers from Berea sailed to Athens.

After the earthquake in Philippi, what did the jailer do once he discovered that his prisoners, Paul and Silas, were still there?

Day 328 – 1 Thessalonians •

Paul, Silas, and Timothy first went to the Macedonian port city of Thessalonica on the second missionary journey. ¹

..., so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. . 1 Thessalonians 2:12

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 answers the question about what happens to Christians who die before the return of the Lord.

From the Latin for “caught up” (1 Thessalonians 4:17) comes the term “rapture”. The rapture described here involves both those who have died and those who are living when the Lord comes. The event here described includes (1) a return of Christ in the air, (2) a resurrection of the dead in Christ, (3) a rapture of living believers, and (4) a reunion with those who have died. ¹

Philippians 1:23 teaches that death brings the Christian immediately into the presence of Christ.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

The body (not the soul) of the believer who dies is said to sleep during the time between death and resurrection. ¹

According to Ephesians 2:12, a cross reference for verse 4:13, for whom is there no hope?

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:2

Day 329 – 2 Thessalonians; Acts 18:12-19:22 •

2 Thessalonians was sent by Paul to the church at Thessalonica not long after 1 Thessalonians. Somehow there had been a misunderstanding of his teaching concerning the coming of the Day of the Lord. Thinking that the end of the world was at hand, some had stopped working and were creating a bad situation (3:6, 11). ¹

2 Thessalonians 2:3-9 speaks of the man of lawlessness, who is now being held back by a restrainer. The man of lawlessness is an individual of the future who will come to power during the tribulation days. While there are many antichrists even in this day, the man of lawlessness is the one great Antichrist in the future.

The Day of the Lord will not begin until the Antichrist is revealed (2:3); the Antichrist cannot begin to act until the restrainer is removed (2:7); since the restrainer has not yet been removed, the Thessalonians could be certain that the Day of the Lord had not yet begun, regardless of what the false teachers were saying. ¹

In Acts we catch up with Paul in Corinth, where he ministered for 1 ½ years. Paul first visited Corinth around 52 A.D.

Paul’s third missionary journey is detailed in Acts 18:23-21:26. First, he passed through Galatia and Phrygia strengthening all the disciples, having spent some time there. Afterward Paul ministered in Ephesus for two years.

What example does Paul demonstrate in 2 Thessalonians 3:7-10?

References

¹ *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995.

² *Be Daring*, Warren W. Wiersbe, 1988.