



# SMALL GROUP STUDY

## Living in the Light of the Return of the Lord

1st and 2nd Thessalonians were written by Paul to the church in Thessalonica. They are both Eschatological Epistles -- they are about the future. Their contents contain information about Christ's Return and the Lord's Retribution. The Church in Thessalonica was a group of young believers. They had received only three sabbaths of teaching when Paul came through their town and reasoned with them from the scriptures. In the three weeks Paul was with them he covered the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, the return of Jesus Christ and the day of the Lord. After Paul left the area, he sent Timothy back to check on them. Timothy reported that they were doing well but could use some additional clarifying instructions. Consequently, Paul writes to them to remind them of the truths he taught them while he was with them.

## 1st Thessalonians -- The Lord's Return

This first letter focuses on Jesus Christ and the Church. Paul commends them for sounding forth the word of the Lord and for turning to God, serving Him and waiting for Christ's return. Paul clarifies his teachings exhorts them to Godliness.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. What were Paul's feelings toward the Thessalonians?
- b. What does Paul mean when he uses the term "nursing mother" and how does it apply to his feelings for the Thessalonian believers?
- c. Where does the term "rapture" come from?
- d. What is "The Day of the Lord?"

## 2nd Thessalonians -- The Day of the Lord

Second Thessalonians focuses on the Antichrist and the world. The Thessalonians were worried that they had missed the rapture and were now living in the day of the Lord's judgement. Paul calmed them down by reminding them of the things that would happen first. Paul instructs them that the gathering together of the believers will happen before the Day of the Lord.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- e. What chapter in Revelation fills in the details around what Paul alludes to in 2 Thessalonians verse 4?
- f. In what ways will the last days parallel the days of Noah?
- g. How will the rapture of the church impact the world?
- h. Examine your heart: Are you actively looking *for* the return of the Lord?