

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Signs of the Times”
Part I**

II THESSALONIANS 2:1-3

KEY POINT:

God has not left us in ignorance about what to look for in the end and how to live as we wait for it.

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once,
and after that comes judgment, so Christ,
having been offered once to bear the sins of many,
will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those
who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Hebrews 9:27-28

1. Has the day of the Lord already come? (vs. 1-3a)
2. Why has the day of the Lord not come? (vs. 3b-12)

Questions for the Text

I. Has the Day of the Lord Already Come?
(vs. 1-3a)

A. No, but be calm (vs. 1-2).

- First Epistle – 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23
- Second Epistle – 1:7, 10

The Second Coming in the Thessalonian Epistles

*Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls
conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear,
nor be in dread. But the LORD of hosts,
him you shall honor as holy.
Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*

Isaiah 8:12-13

*You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.*

Isaiah 26:3

*If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you
and gives you a sign or a wonder,
and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass,
and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,'
which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,'
you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that
dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing
you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with
all your heart and with all your soul.*

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

Deuteronomy 13:4-5

I. Has the Day of the Lord Already Come? (vs. 1-3a)

A. No, but be calm (vs. 1-2).

- By remembering Who is sovereign
- By remembering Who we will be gathered to

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are from
God, for many false prophets have gone out into
the world. By this you know the Spirit of God:
every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has
come in the flesh is from God,*

I John 4:1-2

I. Has the Day of the Lord Already Come?
(vs. 1-3a)

A. No, but be calm (vs. 1-2).

B. No, but be discerning (vs. 3a).

- A. By starting with humility (Prov 1:7)
- B. By knowing the importance of truth (Ps 19; 119)
- C. By immersing ourselves in Scripture
- D. By learning to interpret Scripture correctly (II Tim 2:15)
- E. By asking for discernment (Jas 1:5-6)
- F. By investing time with other who are discerning (Prov 13:20)

6 Ways to Grow in Discernment

I. Has the Day of the Lord Already Come? (vs. 1-3a)

A. No, but be calm (vs. 1-2).

B. No, but be discerning (vs. 3a).

II. Why Not? (vs. 3b-12)

A. We are still awaiting a great apostasy (vs. 3b).

*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.*

Psalm 14:1

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times
some will depart from the faith by devoting
themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings
of demons,*

I Timothy 4:1

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

II Timothy 3:1-5

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹ho is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

*They went out from us, but they were not of us;
for if they had been of us,
they would have continued with us.
But they went out, that it might become plain
that they all are not of us.*

I John 2:19

KEY POINT:

God has not left us in ignorance about what to look for in the end and how to live as we wait for it.



*But do not overlook this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years,
and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to
fulfill his promise as some count slowness,
but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish,
but that all should reach repentance.*

*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the
heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the
earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

II Peter 3:8-10