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A Study of the End Times and 1–2 Thessalonians Future Tense Syllabus

Course Description

This course is an doctrinal introduction to eschatology and an expositional study of the Epistles to the Thessalonians.

Course Objectives

After completing this course the student will:

- 1. Remember the basic content and events related to eschatology and the message of 1–2 Thessalonians.
- 2. Identify the major eschatological events and relate those events to 1-2 Thessalonians.
- 3. Know the major eschatological positions and the major problem passages and their possible solutions for 1–2 Thessalonians.
- 4. Gain a greater appreciation for the eschatological hope and heritage that Christians have in Christ.
- 5. Grow in spiritual maturity by understanding that prophecy is not written primarily to answer questions about the future, but rather to provide motivation for godliness in the present in light of the future.

Course Textbooks

- 1. The Bible
- 2. Class notes

Note: The student will be responsible for reading the Bible passage that will be discussed that day before each class and also any assigned class notes or handouts.

Course Assignment Description

- 1. Read 1–2 Thessalonians at least twice during the length of the course. There is no substitute for reading the Scriptures!
- 2. Keep a notebook (preferably a 3-ring binder) devoted *specifically* to the course. The notebook should contain the course handouts, your notes, and any other materials

pertinent to the study. Organizing these materials now will make them accessible in the future as you continue your studies and as you may have opportunity to teach the book.

Course Schedule

| Day | Session | Content To Be Covered |
|------|----------|---|
| 1–22 | 1 | Introduction to the course and to the interpretation of biblical prophecy |
| | 23 | Introduction to the course and to the interpretation of biblical prophecy |
| 1–29 | 3 | Overview of end time events |
| | 4 | Introduction to the rapture |
| 2–5 | 5 | Introduction to the tribulation |
| | 6 | Introduction to the tribulation |
| 2–12 | 7 | Introduction to the tribulation |
| | 8 | Introduction to the tribulation |
| 2–19 | 9 | Introduction to the Second Coming |
| | 10 | Introduction to the Second Coming |
| 2–26 | 11 | Introduction to the Millennium |
| | 12 | Introduction to the eternal state |
| 3–4 | 13 | Introduction to 1–2 Thessalonians |
| | 14 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 |
| 3–11 | 15 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 2:1–3:13 |
| | 16 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 2:1–3:13 |
| 3–18 | 10 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 2:1–3:13 Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12 |
| | 10 | Europeition of 1 Theoreman 4.1, 12, 18 |
| 3–25 | 18 19 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 4:1–13–18 Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 |
| | 20 | |
| | 20 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 |
| 4–1 | 21 | Expos Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28 |
| | 22 | Exposition of 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28 |
| 4-8 | 23 | Introduction to 2 Thessalonians |
| | 24 | Exposition of 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 |

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 min. break), 8:10–9:00

| 4–15 | 25 | Exposition of 2 Thessalonians 2:1–17 |
|------|----|---|
| | 26 | Exposition of 2 Thessalonians 2:1–17 |
| 4–22 | 27 | Exposition of 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18 |
| | 28 | Exposition of 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18 (take home exam distributed) |
| 4–29 | 29 | Review and grade exam |
| | 30 | Wrap up |

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1–2 THESSALONIANS

Although there are no textbooks required for this course, you might want to consider purchasing one or more of the books below to enhance your personal study. The following list is a very select list of some that might be the most helpful for you. If you have specific questions please do not hesitate to ask or contact me.

Bruce, F. F. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 45, ed. Ralph P. Martin. Waco: Word, 1982.

Hiebert, Edmond D. The Thessalonian Epistles: A Call to Readiness. Chicago: Moody, 1971.

Holmes, Michael W. 1 & 2 Thessalonians; from Biblical Text to Contemporary Life. NIV Application Commentary, ed. Terry Muck. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

- Marshall, Howard I. A Commentary on the Epistles to the Thessalonians. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Morris, Leon. *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*. Revised ed. The New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. F. F. Bruce. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *First and Second Thessalonians*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1959.
- Walvoord, J. F. *The Thessalonian Epistles*. Bible Study Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.