

FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS AND THE COMING KINGDOM

DESCRIPTION

This is a course on Bible Interpretation and biblical theology centered on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By completing this course the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of First and Second Thessalonians.
3. Better understand ancient letter writing and rhetoric and how that influences the interpretation of New Testament letters.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Better understand the process of producing a biblical theology.
6. Better understand eschatology and the future kingdom.
7. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

TEXTBOOKS

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read First and Second Thessalonians at least twice during the course (preferably in two different translations).
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to each of these books with a collection of material relevant to their interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

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Center Point Bible Institute
September 7–November 9
Thursday 7:00–9:00 PM

SCHEDULE

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

Date	Session	Content
9/7	1	Introduction to Course, and “Why are we Here?”
	2	Introduction to Bible Interpretation
9/14	3	Author and Audience
	4	Genre, Structure and Primary Themes
9/21	5	Walk Through of First Thessalonians
	6	Interpretation and Application of First Thessalonians
9/28	7	Walk Through of Second Thessalonians
	8	Interpretation and Application of Second Thessalonians
10/5	9	Introduction to Biblical Theology
	10	The Problems Surrounding the Coming Kingdom
10/12	11	The Coming King and Kingdom in Old Testament Narrative
	12	The Coming King and Kingdom in Wisdom Literature
10/19	13	The King and Kingdom in the Prophets
	14	The King and Kingdom in Gospels and Acts
10/26	15	The King and Kingdom in General Epistles and Revelation
	16	The King and Kingdom in Paul
11/2	17	The Doctrine of the Rapture of the Church
	18	The Doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ
11/9	19	Final Questions and Discussion
	20	Final Exam and Celebration

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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1940.

Blaising, Craig, Alan Hultberg, and Douglas J. Moo. *Three Views on The Rapture: Pretribulation, Prewrath, or Posttribulation*. Edited by Alan Hultberg. 2nd ed. Counterpoints on Bible and Theology, ed. Stanley N. Gundry. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *The Kingdom in History and Prophecy*. Grand Rapids: Dunham, 1915.

Geisler, Norman, and David Geisler. *Conversational Evangelism: How to Listen and Speak So You Can Be Heard*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2009.

Green, Gene L. *The Letters to the Thessalonians*. Pillar New Testament Commentary, ed. D. A. Carson. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.

Marshall, I. Howard. *1 and 2 Thessalonians: A Commentary*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 1983.

Martin, D. Michael. *1, 2 Thessalonians*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen, vol. 33. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995.

McClain, Alva J. *The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God*. Winona Lake, IN: BMH, 1959.

Morris, Leon. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, ed. Leon Morris, vol. 13. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.

Morris, Leon. *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*. Revised ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Ned B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, and Gordon D. Fee. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991.

Walton, Steve. "What Has Aristotle to Do with Paul? Rhetorical Criticism and 1 Thessalonians." *Tyndale Bulletin* 46, no. 2 (1995): 228-50.

Walvoord, John F., and Mark Hitchcock. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. Edited by Philip E. Rawley. Chicago, IL: Moody, 2012.

Walvoord, John F. *The Millennial Kingdom: A Basic Text in Premillennial Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1959.

Walvoord, John F. *The Rapture Question*. Revised and Enlarged ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.

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Wanamaker, Charles A. *The Epistles to the Thessalonians*. New International Greek Testament Commentary, ed. I. Howard Marshall and W. Ward Gasque. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990.

Witherington, Ben, III. *1 and 2 Thessalonians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

Witherington, Ben, III. *Jesus, Paul and the End of the World: A Comparative Study in New Testament Eschatology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.