

2 Thessalonians

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

PAUL'S THEORY AND PRAXIS OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

Fall 2007

Guide: Pastor Bill

The THEORETICAL				The PRACTICAL					
Concerning the Justice of God				Keep Awake To The Big Lie	Characteristics Of The Chosen			Living The Awakened Life	
The Theology of "The Greeting"	The Activity and Timing of God's Justice	The Result of Faithfulness	The 2 nd Coming Is Not Yet!	The Deception and Delusion of The Big Lie	Characterizing Those Chosen For Salvation	The Theology of the Benediction	Our Faithfulness and God's Faithfulness	Guidance For Living The Awakened Life	The Theology of "The Salutation"
1: 1 – 2	1: 3 – 10	1: 11 – 12	2: 1 – 2	2: 3 – 12	2: 13 – 15	2: 16 – 17	3: 1 – 5	3: 6 – 15	3: 16 - 18
Session 1				Session 2	Session 3			Session 4	

Session 1 - The Surface Barrier	Session 2 – The Deep Problem	Sessions 3 and 4 -- Paul's Solution
<p>SURFACE BARRIER preventing the Thessalonian Church from fully living the Awakened Life is that they are attracted to false teachings. Many in the Thessalonian Church were living a communal life style expecting the imminent 2nd Coming of Christ. Paul believes this is an inadequate way of living the Christian life and is causing these people to live off the generosity of the Thessalonian community.</p>	<p>The Thessalonian church did not understand the nature of the Man of Lawlessness vs. the Law of Reality. The basic question to answer is, "Are there two realities?" To believe that Evil is a reality is to succumb to The Rebellion, and the delusion, that the truth is <u>more than</u> The Way Life Is (TWLI). There is only one Law—the Law of Reality.</p> <p>Law-less-ness is to believe that Evil is now sitting in God's place in the Temple (of Awakening). NOT SO! God is only the God of Reality. To believe in either kind of reality is idolatry; God just IS. That's it. Period.</p> <p>There are not TWO REALITIES! If there is an Evil Reality then we are hopeless but to remain in obedience to The Rebellion which is to live in a Delusion of the truth.</p> <p>There is only ONE REALITY of which <u>delusion</u> is one experience or aspect just as <u>love</u> is one experience or aspect. One of the better tests of this is our experience of PAIN; pain never lies to us! When we experience the pain of slavery is it a lie? No, it is the truth that slavery is painful. The truth is the experience of One Reality.</p> <p>So what is the nature of evil? Evil is the EXPERIENCE of hopelessness. Evil is the EXPERIENCE of fear. Hopelessness and fear lead us to believe that our human situation has no answer. This is a lie! It is a lie because Jesus' life, death on the cross and the resurrection demonstrate that we can die to the barriers preventing us from living hopefully! We are not victims, but rather we are victors in Christ.</p>	<p>Live the surrendered life and "God will take care of you." (See: "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light, by Kolodiejchuk, Brian (M.C.), New York: Doubleday. 2007)</p> <p>Other IHOPer observations included: Paul seems to be saying, "Do what I tell you, or don't eat." Another noted, "Some people are so heavenly bound they are no earthly good." Another added, "To live the surrendered life is to get unconnected to the world. Mother Teresa kept herself and her sisters grounded in human suffering as a practical demonstration of what deliberately choosing to live the surrendered life is like.</p>

