

This epistle was written in part as a correction to a misunderstanding about the “day of the Lord,” which some in the early Christian community feared had already arrived. The apostle seeks to lay to rest their fears, and to encourage them to a more mature faith, sure of God’s grace and confident of their standing in the Lord. Many signs will precede the final day of judgment, and the Lord Jesus Christ will win a definitive and clear victory over all opposing forces. Prayer is offered for good hope and comfort that will strengthen the Thessalonian disciples in their very word and good work.

Listen now as I read from second Thessalonians

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us - whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter - asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings^[b] we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 20:27-38

In the gospel the Sadducees ask a question about the resurrection. Jesus replies that resurrection means a different existence from earthly life, and that it depends on a God who has a personal and living relationship with all people. The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection from death, and they attempted to make it seem absurd by asking what would then be the legal situation for a person who had been married several times. Jesus cuts through their apparent cleverness. There is no need for marriage after the resurrection. What is more, the bible continues to speak of the patriarchs as though they will still be alive before God.

Hear now these words from the gospel of Luke

Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. Finally, the woman died too. Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Liturgist: This is the gospel message of our Lord and Savior

All: May the reading and the hearing of Your word inform our minds, comfort our souls, and guide our feet.