

Paul was a charlatan. ---answer to opponents who claimed

eschatology and "end times" ideas. ---clarifying questions on

(3) items for further study:L

--We may have mentioned this but the way in which the eschatological ideas are used in the forming of practical life and testimony is a very interesting study.

--the causes for Thanksgiving and doing the will of God (1 Thess 4, 5) provide helpful information as to how the life of the believer manifests truth.

--theoretical and practical holiness are combined skillfully in the discussion of Christian life and witness.

--While the eschatological questions are not all "solved", a good bit of helpful material is given on them and these books are the most informative of Paul's letters in this regard.

c. Summary and Conclusion:

As they are among the earliest of Paul's letters, the Thessalonian epistles give early witness to the easy excesses into which some believers fall without proper regard to the redemptive work and the Gospel witness. It is not easy to set a proper course in life practice but a balanced view on the person of the Lord and an appreciation for His coming are helpful items. Yet we often see extremists even in these things. The Thessalonian letters argue for a life changing experience of grace that shows itself in the continuing doing of God's will while expecting His completion of the age and the coming of the Lord Jesus.

8. The Timothy Letters

a. An overview:

The Timothy and Titus letters are usually known as the "Pastoral Epistles" because they are charges from Paul to two young pastors concerning their ministries. The attitude of the early church toward the question of their authorship is basically the same as that toward any of Paul's epistles: they are quoted or alluded to as early as c. AD 95 by Clement of Rome and c. AD 110 by Polycarp. Pauline authorship was not seriously challenged until the early 18th century when critical

*Eschatology
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