



Thessalonica

- Large port city
- Prominent business center
- Influential to surrounding area

Paul was run out of town and went to Berea where he was run out of town and went to Athens and eventually Corinth

The young church was heavily persecuted for their belief in Jesus. Paul is writing these two letters, probably from Athens or Corinth to encourage them to persevere in their faith. One of the sources of encouragement is the truth of the Second Coming of Jesus.

What is the Second Coming of Jesus?

Revelation 19:11-16, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Second Coming is Motivation to Holiness

1 Thess 5:23,24, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

"With them the holy life was not an option, but an obligation. Sanctification was not the experience of a few exclusive and elite saints, but the normal standard of all Christian living, and the condition without which no man can see the Lord. This, indeed, is the only standard for every age and every Christian. "Shall we continue to in that grace may abound? God forbid." God forbids you to continue in sin. God commands you to be holy, and he provides what he commands." AB Simpson

Why Christ Came?

John 18:37, "For this I have been born, and for this I have come in the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who as of the truth hears my voice."

Thessalonica was a city of many religions. A hodge-podge of spirituality where there was something for everyone.

The problem with Christianity is it doesn't fit in a hodge-podge of religions. It doesn't fit in a mixture of half lies and almost truths.