

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xvi

Part 1

1 Introduction	3
Introduction	3
The need for the study	3
The need for a situational study of 1 Thessalonians	13
The need for a situational study of 2 Thessalonians	14
Method and procedure	14

Part 2

2 Grieving without hope	19
Introduction	19
Does οὐ θέλομεν δὲ ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν indicate prior ignorance?	20
Does περὶ τῶν κοιμωμένων imply a future awakening?	22
Does λυπησθε καθὼς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ οἱ μὴ ἔχοντες ἐλπίδα imply that the Thessalonian community are lacking hope?	23
Why do the protasis and apodosis of 4:14 not correspond?	26
Where is the λόγος κυρίου to be found?	32
Does οὐ μὴ φθάσωμεν indicate relative disadvantage?	33
Did the Thessalonian community know about the resurrection of the dead?	35
What is the source of the λόγος κυρίου?	38
Possible Pauline redaction of the 'word of the Lord' (4:16–17a)	41
What do 4:16–17a contribute to the argument of the section?	41
How do 4:16–17 relate to 4:14b?	45

Is the source of the Thessalonians' confusion an erroneous theology of Jewish assumption?	46
Conclusion	47
3 Anxious and fearful	49
Introduction	49
Does idle speculation underlie the Thessalonians' question?	50
The meaning of the 'Day of the Lord' in 5:2	51
The import of the thief motif in 5:2	52
The relationship of 5:3 to the thief-in-the-night simile	53
Does 5:3 constitute grounds for judging the Thessalonian community to be guilty of false security?	55
The function of 5:4	57
The significance of the four pronouncements of 5:5	58
The significance of 5:6–8	60
The function of 5:9–10	63
The function of 5:1–11	67
Were the Thessalonian converts over-excited?	69
Do 5:1–11 reflect a concrete situation?	69
Do 5:6–8 elucidate the specific situation of the Thessalonian church?	70
Was the delay of the parousia a factor in the problem?	71
Were the Thessalonians worried that they might not be prepared for the Day?	72
The relationship between 4:13–18 and 5:1–11	73
A new hypothesis	73
Conclusion	79
4 In need of reassurance	80
Specific features of the text confirming our hypothesis regarding the eschatological situation	80
Does the argumentation of the rest of 1 Thessalonians develop or contradict our hypothesis regarding the eschatological situation?	85
Conclusion to Part 2	111
Part 3	
5 Shaken and terrified	115
Introduction	115
How was ἐνέστηκεν ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ κυρίου understood?	115

What were the implications of the false claim for ‘the Thessalonians’?	125
Conclusion	142
Concluding summary	142
6 Perseverance under threat	144
Introduction	144
The significance of the prescript (1:1–2)	144
Why have ὀφείλομεν and καθὼς ἄξιόν ἐστὶν been included in the thanksgiving?	145
The absence of ἐλπίς from 1:3	146
The implication of αὐτοὺς ἡμᾶς in 1:4	148
In 1:5 what is an ἐνδειγμα of what?	149
The function of 1:6–10	150
Do 1:11–12 imply that the salvation of ‘the Thessalonians’ is contingent on prayer?	154
Conclusion	155
7 The problem of exploiting charity and the conclusion	157
Introduction	157
Difficulties of reading 2 Thess. 3:6–15 as an eschatological problem	158
Recent non-eschatological hypotheses	163
An exegesis of 2 Thess. 3:6–15	166
A non-eschatological explanation of the problem of the ἄτακτοι	171
The situation underlying 2 Thess. 3:16–18	175
Conclusion to Part 3	178
Part 4	
8 Synthesis and conclusion	183
Summary of the situation underlying 1 Thessalonians	183
Summary of the situation underlying 2 Thessalonians	185
Points of continuity and discontinuity	186
The plausibility of development between the two situations, assuming the Pauline authorship of 2 Thessalonians	187
The case for pseudonymity evaluated in the light of our study	198
Is 2 Thessalonians an epistolary pseudepigraph?	214
Conclusion	219

Appendix

Michael, the restrainer removed (2 Thess. 2:6–7)	225
Introduction: 2 Thess. 2:6–7 and the restrainer	225
The restrainer: the options	228
Michael as a restrainer	232
The removal of Michael	236
The use of the neuter τὸ κατέχον	246
Conclusion	248
Bibliography	250
<i>Index of passages cited</i>	287
<i>Index of modern authors</i>	305
<i>Index of subjects</i>	310