

## 2 Thessalonians 1

Appears to have been written shortly after 1Thessalonians. Many scholars estimate that the time gap between the two epistles is only a few short weeks or months. Written sometime around 51-52 B. C.

The fact that Paul writes to the Thessalonians twice in such close proximity shows that he had a great love for them. He was not writhing out of obligation. He wanted to make sure they were not like the plant which grows up from the seed of rocky soil, which would wither and fade away after facing persecution.

(v.2) Greetings - notice Paul's greetings in his epistles - they are rich in spiritual truth. They convey great warmth and concern for them.

They are deep.

He reminds them though they are distant God is watching over them and will be with them.

Paul practiced what he preached - to speak in "psalms and hymns and spirituals songs. (Eph.5:19).

(v.3) We are bound to thank God always for you."

We ought always to give thanks to God for you -

He focused on their positive attributes.

(v.b) "because your faith grows exceedingly.

Your faith is greatly enlarged - "

The Thessalonians had displayed a faith in the Lord since the beginning.

Their faith was not stagnant. It was growing. This is the natural progression of genuine faith.

[Q} How is original faith confirmed? - when we show faith in God- finish the statement.

[Q] what does it mean to take a leap of faith?

(v.3b) "And the Charity (Love) of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth ;" the love of each of you .... grows ever greater - Paul highlights the love of each individual within the Thessalonians church.

Activity:

(Rate yourself from 1-10 on your love - (remember this is not an emotion but unconditional decision to put others interests above your own ) for:

Your spouse - your parents - your children - your siblings - your friends - your co-workers - your church / fellowship.

Write down a specific way you will show love - to the ones you gave yourself the lowest score on.

(v.4) "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure."

\*We speak proudly of you - Paul used the Thessalonians as an example to other churches. The lifestyle they showed could be a good model for other all across the continent.

Facing persecutions and adversity, the Thessalonians proved their faith in the Lord in the middle of difficulties.

(v.5) "That ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God:"

Read (Acts 5:40-42) (Eph. 4:1) (Phip.1:27)

Suffering is one type of test that believers will go through.

[Q] If a believer faces suffering - How will he/she prove to be worthy- will that person endure or renounce?

[Q] Does worthiness mean that one could earn his or her salvation or even pay God back for it?

[Q] How can you live your life more worthily?

[Q] What do you need to do to be considered worthy of the kingdom of God?

(v.6) Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

(v.5-6) God's righteous judgement - there are two aspects of God's judgement.

1. Punishment for those who have mistreated the Thessalonians (or other believers) - (Romans 12:19)
2. Relief to the Thessalonians who had been mistreated - (Heb.4:3-11)

(v.7) "And to you who are troubled rest with us. When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angles,"

Eternal punishment

(v.7-8-9) shows that He will return with mighty angels and flaming fire.

The purpose is to deal out retribution to those who have embraced the gospel.

The punishment entails:

A. Pay the penalty - the penalty is for sins

B. Eternal destruction - Jesus said that there the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched, showing the eternal nature of this punishment.

C. Away from the presence of the Lord - Hell has been described as eternal death, meaning separation from God.

D. From the Glory of His power - God's power will not reach down into hell to save people.

(v.10) "When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, to be admired in them all that believe (because of our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

On that day Jesus will receive the ultimate glory. Believers will marvel at Him. He will be glorified,

(v.11) "Wherefore also we pray always for you..."

Pray for you always - this is another reminder to make prayer a top priority.

(v.11b.) "and the work of Faith with power." - faith requires action. It is not just in our mind. Those who have faith in God must work for Him.

(v.12) that the name of the Lord may be glorified in you, and ye in Him ..."

Christ glorified in you - our ultimate goal should be to bring glory to God.

This is why we were created.

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