

## 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-8

### Teaching Points

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 the Thessalonians twice in such close proximity shows that he had a great love for them. He was not writing 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 spiritual 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 - 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 others 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) - Paul wants the Thessalonians to know that God is just. He deals justly with all persecutors .

God's righteous judgement - there are two aspects of God's judgement.

Punishment for those who have mistreated the Thessalonians (or other believers) - (Romans 12:19) " Do not take revenge, my dear friend, but leave room for God's wrath, it is written : "It is Mine to avenge; I will repay, "say the Lord. -

Relief for the Thessalonians who had been mistreated - (Heb.4:3-11) to read about the rest believers who endure can enter

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

The next verses describe in more detail His punishment.

(v.7) -He (Jesus) - will return with His mighty angels and flaming fire.

The purpose is to deal out retribution to those who have embraced the gospel.  
"The Day of the Lord."

Eternal Punishment:

(v.9) "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, from glory to glory."

The punishment entails:

A. - Pay the penalty - it is just a punishment. The penalty is for sins which the person has committed. You don't pay a penalty unless something is wrong.

B. - Eternal destruction - It is an 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. None of God's mercy, love, kindness, or grace will be there. Hell is the finality of God abandoning all those who first abandoned Him.

D. - From the Glory of His power - God's power will not reach down into hell to save people. He already demonstrated His Power by reaching down into this world and offering salvation.

(v.10) Jesus will receive Glory - "When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in them all that believe - Jesus will receive ultimate glory.

(v.11) "Pray for us always" make prayer a priority.

(v.11b) Work of Faith - faith requires action. -"And the work of faith with power."

It's not just in our mind. Those who have faith must work for Him.

(v. 12)"the name of the Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you.  
Christ be glorified in you. - our ultimate goal is to bring glory to God.

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2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Outline:

I. Don't be swayed - (1-3)

II. The man of lawlessness - (4-9)

III. People deceived (10-12)

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I. Don't be swayed. - (1-3)

#### Cross-References

(1John 4:1). "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

(Galatians 1:8) - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse."

(2Corinthians 11:4) - " For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirits you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

#### Teaching Points:

(v.1) - "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our Gathering together unto Him,"

This is another reference to the rapture, Which Paul taught about - at this event believers around the world will be gathered together to Christ.

(v.2) "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand"."

Satan sends a message into the world through false teaches to turn people farther and farther away from God. One of his deceptions is that he tells people that Jesus has already returned. Some of Satan attacks are aimed at the world such as atheism. For the church he attacks ill - prepared or immature members of the church who do not know any better. Paul's exhortation for them and us is to not be quickly shaken or disturbed by this - be steadfast!

(v.3) 'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall come, except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin, be revealed, the son of perdition;'

Paul says not to let anyone deceive us. We can protect ourselves from being deceived and prevent it from happening.- Knowing the truth !

To protect yourselves from being misled by false teachers, study the Bible .

You have to learn like the believers in (Acts 17:11).

(v.3b) [The falling away] - Apostasy mean falling away - "falling away from the truth." Before the Antichrist there must be apostasy.

Paul is saying that in the last days the church or people who once professed Christ will turn away from the Scriptural truth.

[Q] What are some signs of apostasy ?

Some that were mention in an article where people in the church claim falling away from truth.

- A. Denial of the basis doctrine such as the Trinity.
  - B. Denominational division.
  - C. Ordination of homosexuals.
  - D. Women elders and pastors.
  - F. Using the Lord's name in vain
- Pastors who are concerned with growing a church rather than preaching the truth.
- G. Pastors who don't teach sin or damnation.
  - H. Evolution.
  - I. Making and merchandising ( trying to get rich from the gospel).

The clear teaching of Scripture has been tossed aside as the church caves to culture pressures.

## II. The man of lawlessness. (4-9)

This figure has a lot of names in the Scripture.

Son of destruction, Antichrist, the beast, and abomination of desolation are some of his names.

He is described in (v.4) as one who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship.

(v.4) "Who opposes and exalted himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he is God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Discussion Questions:

[Q] What kind of person would seek to deceive you?

Cross - Reference

Revelation 13:1-18 - The Beast.

(1John 2:22) - Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ,. Such a person is the Antichrist -denying the Father and the Son.

(1John 2:18 - Dear children, this is the hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how it is the last hour.

(Daniel 7:8) - While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully."

(Mark 13:14) - When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong - let the reader understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

The below references are from Revelation 13,

A. He will receive a "Fatal" wound and be healed (13:3). It appears this will be Satan's last attempt to imitate the resurrection.

B. The whole earth will follow him. It will partially be this miracle healing which will convince them (13:3).

C. They will also worship the dragon, which appears to be Satan and from which the beast receives its power (13:4).

D. He will speak great blasphemy and arrogant things (13:5).

E. His rule is limited to three and a half years (13:5).

F. He will make war with the saints and win. (13:7).

G. Every unbeliever will worship him. (13:8).

H. He will perform great signs (13:13).

I. He will make an image (13:14).

J. This image will miraculously be able and will kill those who don't worship (13:15).

K. He will make everyone get the mark of the beast if they want to buy and sell (13:16-17).

(v.5) Remember ye not, that, when [I was still with you], I told you these things?

The Thessalonians needed reminders. Paul had taught them this before.

But after I left false teachers came in and confused them.

It is very important that Bible teachers follow Paul's example - reminding & review.

(v.6) "And now ye know what withholdeth (Restrains him) that he might be revealed in his time."

The Thessalonians knew - I'm not sure I know what restrains the Antichrist.

Some say it is the church - which will be removed at the rapture allowing Satan to move forward with his plans. Some say human government. Some say it is the Holy Spirit - who will reduce His presence after the rapture or completely leave.

A. (Philp. 2:15) - He restrains evil through believers, who are His lights in the world. Believers preach God's message to the world, which influences even people who don't believe in Him to do what is right.

B. (Rom. 13:1-4) - Government is established by God as a deterrent to sin and a force which upholds order and generally the common good.

C. (Jude 1:7-8) - through direct punishment of people or angels who go beyond the limit. These

angelic beings were not allowed to continue wreaking havoc and spreading their evil.

(v.8) “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

All the world will worship and follow the Antichrist. Some will do it because they truly believe him. Many will likely do it out of fear. Through manipulation, signs, and threats the Antichrist will draw all non-believers to himself. All armies of the earth will be at his disposal.

\*Jesus will return for the battle of the ages. As soon as Jesus returns He will slay this Antichrist with the breath of His mouth.

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## 2 Thessalonians ( 2:9-17)

### Teaching Points:

#### I. People Deceived - (9-12)

(v.9) teaches us a few things about Satan: “Even him, who is coming: is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders”

A. Satan has a plan. Deception - Wreaking havoc and destruction.

(John 8:44) showed us he is the father of lies.

His deception is limited to those who perish, who did not receive the love-of the truth. True believers will not believe the Antichrist’s lies.

B. Satan is powerful. - it is his power that will bring about the coming of the Antichrist and the one-world government he will rule. (Rev.1q3:2-4,13,15,).

C. Satan will deceive people with false wonders. He is probably the world best copycat. He know that signs and wonders convince people and he uses these as one of the weapons in his arsenal. (2 Cor. 11:14). masquerades angel of light.

The man of lawlessness’ deception - His entire plan is centered on deception.

(John 8:44) - “the father of lies.”

(v.10) - And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because the receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

We can see in this verse that Satan’s deception is limited to those who perish, who did not receive the love of the truth. This means that true believers will not believe the Antichrist’s

lies. We must ask God for a discerning mind and passionately pursue the truth as found in God's word.

(v.11) God will send them a deluding influence - " And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

He will send it on [Them] who perish. God will send it on unbelievers. Those who never accept the love of the truth and are never saved. This does not mean no unbelievers will accept the gospel. Those who accept the gospel were not subject to the deluding influence.

Deluding Influence - The major reason for the tribulation is for God to send His Judgement upon the world for rejecting Christ.

This is about those who hates and despises God, rejecting revelation over and over again. The final God says enough is enough. You will be punished. Example the story of Pharaoh .

God's patience will run out and he will decide to judge these people and make sure that it happens.

(12). "That they may be judged - Here we can see the day reasons for the tribulation. It is during this period that God will pour out His judgement on all who do not believe the truth. God is willing to extend His grace to people. But His Patience only extends so far. If people do not receive His gift, He will eventually stop offering.

(12b) "but had pleasure in unrighteousness - took pleasure in wickedness - both believers and unbelievers will commit sin. But unbelievers enjoy this sin. There will be no escape for those people.

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## II. Encouragement and Blessings for Thessalonians. (13 - 17)

(13b) "God hath chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of truth." Now is the day of Salvation.

he called you by our gospel, to obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(15) "Therefore, brethren, standfast, and Hold the traditions which ye were taught - Paul is referring to the key doctrines which they taught to the Thessalonians - Jesus' divinity - and humanity - His bodily resurrection, His second coming.

(16-17) - He we see more about the relationship we have with Christ. He loves us. He want to comfort you in the middle of whatever trials you face.

He will strengthen you to finish what He has called you to do.