

2 Thessalonians 1

Introduction

- This letter was written about 2-3 months after *1 Thessalonians*
- Some of the problems of *1 Thessalonians* were not brought up in this letter – examples: slander against Paul, moral looseness
- However, in this letter there was the problem of no church discipline and the expectations that Jesus would return very shortly
- But in these pages, there are some other very inspiring passages that Paul used to encourage the weak and those who were being persecuted

2 Thessalonians 1.1-2

V 1 – This introduction is very similar to the one in *1 Thessalonians*

- Notice the use in v 1 of “*our Father*” - that shows the bond of faith that holds Paul and the Thessalonians together

V 2 – Grace and Peace

2 Thessalonians 1.3-4

- V 3** – **What two things was Paul particularly proud of concerning the Thessalonians?** Their faith was being enlarged, and their love for each other was growing greater all the time
- We have the picture here of the tree that has been well watered - it is very green and the growth is luxurious
 - It would be great if Paul could say this same thing about all our local congregations today

- V 4** – **What term is used to describe the church in this verse?** The church of God
- What had Paul done concerning the progress of the church at Thessalonica?** He had bragged about it to other churches
 - What made the progress of the Thessalonian church particularly great?** They had grown in the midst of persecution and afflictions

2 Thessalonians 1.5-10

V 5 – Such a beautiful verse!

- The things that had happened at Thessalonica had been to test the Thessalonian Christians
- Did they pass the test?** Yes - they are worthy of the kingdom
- In other words, God had helped them come through the persecution, because of their great faith

- V 6** – **What will happen to those who persecute the church (based on the justice of God)?**
They will be severely punished
- “*It's only fair,*” as we might say today

V 7 – **What does God do to those who are being persecuted?** He gives them relief

- When will that relief come?** At the Second Coming of Jesus
- What is the significance of “mighty angels in flaming fire”?** Christ will have the power to punish those who have persecuted his disciples

V 8 – What else will happen at the Second Coming? Christ will deal out retribution

- To what two groups of people?** Those who did not know God and those who did not obey the gospel of Christ
- In other words, some people knew about God, but still did not obey the gospel
- So “good moral people” will not be saved just because of their good morality

V 9 – What will the penalty be? Eternal destruction, away from the Lord, away from his power

- Therefore, hell will be a place without any goodness or any morality (away from Christ)

V 10 – What will happen to Christ at the Second Coming? He will be glorified

- How will he be glorified in that day?** By his saints
- What else will happen at the Second Coming of Jesus?** He will be marveled at by his followers
- What will the lost people be doing?** Ranting and raving against Christ because they will see their destiny at hand

2 Thessalonians 1.11-12

V 11 – What was Paul preaching for concerning the Thessalonians? That God would count them worthy of their calling

- What does it mean to be worthy of our calling?** Be a good example of the profession we have chosen
- How would Paul's message in v 1-11 encourage Christians?** Not to be frightened of the Second Coming
- Some commentaries have suggested that v 11 might have been a part of a First Century hymn (very poetic)
- The work of faith means that faith is more than just “believing” - it requires some work

V 12 – What was Paul's ultimate goal for the Thessalonians? That the name of Jesus Christ would be glorified

- V 11-12 really seems a great prayer of the apostle Paul for the Thessalonians

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