

“Ridin the Storm Out”

2 Thessalonians Chapter 1

Paul had writing one letter to the Church in Thessalonica. But upon hearing the condition of persecutions, false teachers and a resulting poor behavior, Paul is writing them again **about a year after the first letter.**

1. Natural Questions Arose from the New Church
2. Zealous Jews and Angry Greeks coming against the New Church
3. Possibly, some counterfeit letters appeared affecting the New Church

(see introductory notes on 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 for time and setting)

2 Thessalonians Outlined

Chapters 1	Encouraging the Thessalonians	(Discouraged Believers)
Chapters 2	Explanation for the Thessalonians	(Disturbed Believers)
Chapters 3	Exhortation to the Thessalonians	(Disobedient Believers)

2Th 1:1 **1) A Fitting Thankfulness** vs 1-3

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2Th 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Same Greeting from the 1st Letter to the Thessalonians.
- “To the Church” - The Church are the people. It is not a building or a denomination. It is the people. It is those people who are in God and Christ.
- “Church” = *gk* “Ekklesia” is an assembly of Christians who unite for the purpose of worship and honoring God and Christ.
- As Paul always extends Grace and Peace in most all his letters.
“Peace only comes after we receive Grace.”

2Th 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is {only} fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows {ever} greater;

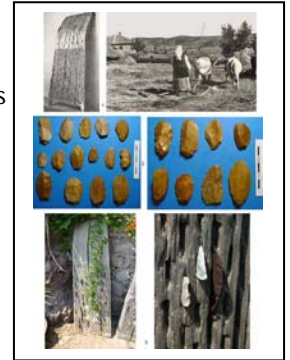
- Why does Paul give (fitting / appropriate) thanks to God (Appropriate because it’s true)
 - Their Faith is Growing (KJV = exceedingly)
 - Their Love is Growing
 - “GREATLY ENLARGED, GROWS GREATER” this is the intended Christian Journey.
It is not meandering in a wilderness until we reach the Promise Land.
Our journey is a journey of growth. Growth in faith. Growth in Love.
 - “... you are to grow. This is so with faith. Do all you can, and then do a little more; and when you can do that, then do a little more than you can. Always have something in hand that is greater than your present capacity. Grow up to it, and when you have grown up to it, grow more.” Spurgeon
- 1 Thessalonians introduction as comparison;
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 “We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father”
 - HOPE is missing in 2 Thessalonians.
 - As this letter develops we see the Thessalonians are persecuted and confused by false teachers and counterfeit letters.
 - These things drain HOPE if hope is not nurtured to grow.

2Th 1:4

2) Affliction on the Righteous vs 4-5

therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

- Paul and the team “speak proudly” about the Thessalonians:
 1. For their perseverance
 2. For their Faith
 3. For Enduring their Persecutions and Afflictions (tribulations)
- Paul is acknowledging their Tribulations. He does not ever tell them that they shouldn't be experiencing these difficulties. In fact He is going to teach them that this is an honor to be persecuted and Troubled
- Tribulation to press, or to distress - a Tribulum was a threshing sledge. This was a sledge pulled by an animal over the cut grain that was laid down in a field. The tribulum was a flat wooden sled that had stones driven into the bottom of it . The stones would separate the grain from chaff and cut the straw at the same time.
- In a similar manner the tribulum (or tribulation) over our lives separate the useful good grain from the chaff.
 - A number of years ago the “Word of Faith” message was the message preached in a Church my wife and I attended. The answer to us who were struggling financially was that our faith was not strong enough that we, by faith should have wealth. Our struggles continued and were compounded by a sense of guilt and being unloved by God. It wasn't until we travelled on mission trips to places of true poverty and our eyes opened an amazing faith and joy in God. These impoverished people had a faith and joy that all the money of the “name it claim it” people could ever buy. They had their focus on Jesus.



2Th 1:5

{This is} a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

- Most people think GOD IS ABSENT when we suffer. Paul teaches the very opposite.
- He says this is “a plain indication of God's righteous judgment” God is at work in us to prepare us for the kingdom of God.
 - 1 Peter 4:16-17 “if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God”
 - Romans 5:3-5 “we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
 - James 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
 - John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
- This is a good thing -- That He considers us worthy of the kingdom.

2Th 1:6

3) Affliction on the Unrighteous vs 6-10

2Th 1:7

For after all it is {only} just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

2Th 1:8

and {to give} relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Green - God's giving to believers

Red - God's giving to unbelievers

- **Verse 6** - "God is JUST to repay with affliction."
 - God is Just, because He is the Creator and we are governed by His rules.
 - God is Just, because He has revealed himself as God and revealed His rules
 - God is Just, because He forewarns man of judgment against transgressors.
 - God is Just, because He has redeemed transgressors through His only Son
 - God is Just, because He offers redemption to all as a free gift.
(the way to receive is to repent and believe)
- **Verse 7** - God will give relief you and me and all believers who are afflicted.
- **Verse 8** - God will deal out retribution to
 - Those who do not know Him
 - Those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus
- Matthew 16:27 "The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he render unto every man according to his deeds,"
- Retribution = distribution of rewards and punishments justly deserved.

2Th 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2Th 1:10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed.

- **Verse 9** - The affliction, repayment is ETERNAL DESTRUCTION.
 - This is ETERNAL - this means that it does not run out, isn't pardoned, or annihilated.
 - This is only giving to them what they wanted. They do not want to know God or obey the Gospel of Jesus. They only receive what they wanted
- This is away from the Lord's presence and power. The presence and power to save.
 - It is being absent from His presence that is the torment. In Daniel 3 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in a fiery furnace comfortable, because they were in the presence of the 4th man (JESUS)
- **VERSE 10** - Comes to glorify His Saints. And the saints will MARVEL at Jesus.
(wonder, admiration)
- Our marvel or amazement will not be in the punishment of the wicked but in the power of Jesus to save and glorify mankind.
- The dividing point between God's wrath and God's glory is simply "believing"

2Th 1:11 **4) A Fulfilling Prayer** vs 11-12

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

2Th 1:12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and {the} Lord Jesus Christ.

- As Paul prayed for the Thessalonians, I pray for you.
- Are You Called?
 - Yes! This calling is the name of the Lord Jesus is glorified in you and you in Him!
- Are you worthy?
 - Counted worthy only according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

**"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible[®],
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)**