

2 Thessalonians
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1. The Greek name *Paulos* meant "little." Several theories have been advanced about the origin of his Greek name.
2. He is called Silas in Acts and Silvanus in the Epistles. 3. Timothy means "one who honors God." 4. The Greek term for church is *ekklesia* and means "the called out ones." 5. **THEME:** 2 Thess. 1:3-10 is one sentence in Greek. They describe Paul's confidence in the believers and confidence in God's judgment on the unbelievers. This is a very strong passage on God's final judgment. The earthly roles, the blessed and unblessed, of the persecutor and persecuted will be reversed.
6. The apostle blesses God for the growing state of the love and patience of the Thessalonians. (1-4) And encourages them to persevere under all their sufferings for Christ, considering his coming at the great day of account. (5-12)
7. I, Paul, together with Silas and Timothy, greet the church of the Thessalonian Christians in the name of God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ. Our God gives you everything you need, makes you everything you're to be.
8. Justice Is on the Way
9. ³⁻⁴ You need to know, friends, that thanking God over and over for you is not only a pleasure; it's a must. We *have* to do it. Your faith is growing phenomenally; your love for each other is developing wonderfully. Why, it's only right that we give thanks. We're so proud of you; you're so steady and determined in your faith despite all the hard times that have come down on you. We tell everyone we meet in the churches all about you.
10. Since the First Epistle had been dispatched St. Paul had been able to receive fresh tidings of the state of the Thessalonian Church, concerning which he was naturally anxious, as the Church was so young when he had been forced to leave it to itself and to God.
11. We find, moreover, that there is no further need of warnings on the subject of purity or of submission to ecclesiastical authority. On the other hand, there were three great faults to find.
12. The First Problem: The tendency to disorders and idleness, which had been censured both directly and indirectly in Paul's first letter, had become stronger instead of receding.

13. Panic and exultation alike had the effect of making the Thessalonians think it not worthwhile to attend to the things of a doomed world.
14. They had misrepresented the oral teaching given by St. Paul during his stay at Thessalonica.
15. Where there is the truth of grace, there will be an increase of it.
16. Where there is the increase of grace, God must have all the glory.
17. When trials from God and persecutions from men come, They quicken the exercise of patience and faith and enabled them to endure all their tribulations.

5-10 All this trouble is a clear sign that God has decided to make you fit for the kingdom. You're suffering now, but justice is on the way. When the Master Jesus appears out of heaven in a blaze of fire with his strong angels, he'll even up the score by settling accounts with those who gave you such a bad time. His coming will be the break we've been waiting for. Those who refuse to know God and refuse to obey the Message will pay for what they've done. Eternal exile from the presence of the Master and his splendid power is their sentence. But on that very same day when he comes, he will be exalted by his followers and celebrated by all who believe—and all because you believed what we told you.

18. Religion, if worth anything, is worth everything; and those who have no religion, or none worth having, or don't know how to value it, cannot find their hearts to suffer for it.
19. We cannot by all our sufferings, any more than by our services, merit heaven.
20. Nothing more strongly marks a man for eternal ruin, than a spirit of persecution and enmity to the name and people of God.
21. And there is a rest for the people of God; a rest from sin and sorrow. The certainty of future recompense is proved by the righteousness of God.
22. The glory of His justice in the damnation of the wicked will be admired, but not as the glory of His mercy in the salvation of believers. This will strike the adoring angels with holy admiration and transport His admiring saints with eternal rapture!