

2 Thessalonians 1

Jesus

- **Church of Thessalonica:** In Greece/Planted by Paul 2nd Missionary Journey
- **Stays 3 Weeks:** Chased out enemies of Gospel...ends up in Corinth writes 2 letters to them 51-52AD

1 Thessalonians	Rapture	Jesus takes Bride to Heaven. Less than 1 year later...
2 Thessalonians	2 nd Coming	Jesus coming back to Judge

- **Love of Eschatology:** Study of end times events

Purpose of Letter: In Between 1st and 2nd Thessalonians
Heresies regarding end times contradicting Paul's first letter had crept in

1 Timothy 1:18 [Paul's warned Timothy] ...wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith **have suffered shipwreck**, 20 of whom are **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander**, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

- **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander:** Called out by name as Heretics/False-teachers

Shipwrecked themselves/Took others down with them...

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will **spread like cancer**. **Hymenaeus** and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the **resurrection is already past**; and they **overthrow the faith of some**.

Timothy: Don't end up ashamed. Know the Word of God

Shun those who come with profane/idle babblings; i.e., Get info from internet not Bible

- **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus:** Strayed from truth/took others w/them

2 Timothy 3:13 ...**evil men** and **impostors** will grow worse and worse, **deceiving and being deceived**.

- **Paul warned the church of Ephesus...**

Acts 20:26... I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel of God**. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will **rise up, speaking** perverse things, to **draw away** the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

True, we wrestle not against flesh/blood but against principalities/powers in the spiritual realm. **None the less...**Satan uses demons and demons use people and people are accountable for allowing themselves to be used. [NJC]

Hymenaeus/Philetus are of this sort

Heretical teaching contradicted the Word of God given by Paul

How far will **this sort** go? After Paul wrote 1st Thessalonians, someone claiming to be Paul wrote a letter to them saying the Tribulation had already begun even though the Rapture had not yet happened...

2 Thessalonians 2:1 ... concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word **or by letter, as if from us**, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 **Let no one deceive you by any means**

- **End Goal of the Heretic?**

1. Shake believer's hope
2. Trouble believers mind
3. Draw people to themselves/Away from Jesus.

Used by Satan to Divide/Conquer. God don't like that

- Paul made sure Thessalonians would know it was **really him in this letter...**

2 Thessalonians 3:17 The salutation of Paul **with my own hand**, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

- Reaffirm what he taught in 1st Letter

Paul corrects false teaching of Heretics in this Letter: **No**, we are not in the Tribulation. **Yes**, we will be raptured before the Tribulation. So, continue to keep waiting for Jesus to come from heaven and deliver you/us from the wrath to come...and know that those who are causing you tribulation will be judged in the Great Tribulation and **it won't be pretty**. [NJC]

- **Setting**

1. Persecution of church is **intensifying**
2. False teachers are **exploiting** their suffering
3. **Contradicting** what Paul gave wrote in first letter...

I. God's Judgment on our Enemies Why We Won't Shut Up

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Three Amigos:** Paul, Silvanus [Silas] and Timothy
- **Grace leads to Peace:** Undeserved kindness both Father/Son leading to...

1. Peace **with God**
2. Peace **of God**

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your **faith grows** exceedingly, and the **love** of every one of you all **abounds** toward each other **4** so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your **patience** and **faith** in all your persecutions and tribulations [afflictions] that you endure, **5** which is manifest [plain] evidence of the **righteous judgment** of God...

- Bragging what God is doing in your lives. **Typical Triad...**

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Faith Growing | Exceedingly | Saved by faith | Walking by faith |
| 2. Love Growing | Abundantly | God/others | Fervent |
| 3. Hope Growing | You've been patient in persecution/tribulation so... | | |

5b... that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you also suffer...**

We will suffer for the Kingdom of God. Tribulation from Satan/man is to be expected
We are expected to suffer well...Like those really going to Heaven afterward

- Don't suffer badly/shamefully...
 1. Whining/Complaining
 2. Questioning God's character/motives

Philippians 1:27 [Instead] ...let your **conduct be worthy** [suitable/appropriate] **of the gospel of Christ... 28** and **not in any way terrified by your adversaries**, which is to them a **proof of perdition** [their coming judgment], but to you of salvation, and that from God.

1 Peter 4:19 ...let those who suffer according to the will of God **commit their souls** to Him in doing good, as to a **faithful Creator**.

- **Q.** Can we suffer well for His Name for a little while?
- When we do... **Strike fear into hearts of our enemies**

Patience/Courage in suffering is proof to our enemies
 The judgment they receive from God [if they do not repent] **...is right**

- **Q.** Who is counted worthy of the Kingdom of God? Those who suffer well
- **Note:** Q. is not who will enter the Kingdom... but who will be **counted worthy...**

IOWs we don't want to be ashamed when Jesus comes
 He will deal with our enemies in a way that we won't want to watch

6 ...since it is a **righteous** thing with God to **repay** with tribulation **those who trouble you...**

It's not as if God does not see. He does see and He will act...

Act 7:54 [Stephen testifies of Jesus] When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, **gazed into heaven** and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing** at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the **Son of Man standing** at the right hand of God!" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a **young man named Saul**.

Psalms 18:6 [David] In my distress **I called upon the Lord**, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears... **7** Then

the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind... **16** He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me... **46** The Lord lives! **Blessed be my Rock!** Let the God of my salvation be exalted. **47 It is God who avenges me**

Romans 8:31 ... If God is for us, who can be against us?

- **A.** Almost Everyone. **Q.** Who can **win** against us? **A.** Nobody

We are not losers because fight back...Understand vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Won't be pretty...as a matter of fact

- God will punish our enemies...

7 ... and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is **revealed from heaven** with **His mighty angels**, 8 in **flaming** fire taking vengeance on those **who do not know God**, and on those who **do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **Rest for those that are troubled?** Believers at time of Paul to Second Coming

1 Thessalonians: **Rapture**

2 Thessalonians: **Second Coming...God's Judgment**

Jesus is coming to earth at the end of the Great Tribulation. He is coming in flaming fire with His mighty angels. **He is coming to judge two groups...**

1. **Those who do not know God:** Haven't heard Gospel. Reject revelation of Creation
2. **Those who do not obey the Gospel:** Have heard/Reject personal need for Jesus

Hebrews 10:26 ...if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment**, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries...It is a **fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

9 These shall be **punished** with **everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be **glorified in His saints** and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Everlasting Destruction: Cast from God's Presence, Glory, and Power
Somewhere else.

- **Is hell Everlasting/Eternal?**

Serious: Most cults deny hell as *everlasting punishment*. SDA states in their Signs publication: If hell is eternal Jesus is worse than Hitler. If wrong...they are heretics/in trouble

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with

Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, **'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... 41** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the **everlasting fire** prepared for the devil and his angels. ...**46** And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life.**"

Everlasting Punishment vs Eternal Life: Same word. gr. **ahee-o'-nee-os**. Without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be

Mark 9:36 [Jesus] took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, 37 "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me." ...**42** "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than **having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched**— 44 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 46 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where **'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'**

- Eternal Judgment on enemies of God/**Eternal Rest for saints...**

**Jesus will be glorified in His saints...Admired among those who believe
Realization that all He said was true has come to pass**

Those who look upon the saints will feel a sudden wonderment of sacred delight; they will be startled with the surprising glory of the Lord's work in them; 'We thought He would do great things, but this! This surpasses [natural birth]!' Every saint will be a wonder to himself. 'I thought my bliss would be great, but not like this!' All his brethren will be a wonder to the perfected believer. He will say, 'I thought the saints would be perfect, but I never imagined such a transfiguration of excessive glory would be put upon each of them. I could not have imagined my Lord to be so good and gracious.'" [Spurgeon]

- Those who believe the Testimony of the Word of God **will be there in Awe...**

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would **count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power**

Worthy of THIS calling? Meeting Him Face to Face

Unashamed at our behavior. We are Exceeding in Faith. Abundant in Love. Patience in Hope

- **Worthy of His calling:** Called us to walk like we're going to heaven
 1. **Reflect** His goodness to us onto others
 2. **Receive** His power through faith to stand

To be worthy representatives of the King overflowing with His Spirit to others...

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**" 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

Worthy Representatives of the King...Overflowing with His attributes

12 that the **name of our Lord Jesus Christ** may be **glorified in you**, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

May Jesus be Glorified in you...May you be Glorified in Him
That the Name of Jesus would be attractive to others because of our lives

- That even our enemies would be saved because...

God will repay *all evil*, and it will **all be judged** and **accounted for** either **at the cross** or **in hell**. [Guzik]

- God was repaid for Paul's sin against Him by the death of Jesus on the Cross
- God was repaid for my sin/yours against Him by the death of Jesus on the Cross

1 John 2:2 [Jesus] is the propitiation [payment] for our sins, and **not for ours** only but also **for the whole world**.

His sacrifice is payment enough for the **worst of sinners**
God's desire is that all, even the worst of us, would benefit from what Jesus did

1 Timothy 2:3b ...God our Savior, 4 who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

SUMMARY God's Final Judgment and Glory