

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Living Responsibly in Light of His Coming

Chapter 1 – Encouragement in Persecution

Chapter 2 – Correction about the Day of the Lord

Chapter 3 – Living in Light of His Coming

Introduction:

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians within a year after 1 Thessalonians, probably in 51 A.D.

Three main purposes are evident:

- 1 – To encourage their perseverance in persecution.
- 2 – To clarify the Day of The Lord.
- 3 – To correct practical problems stemming from a misunderstanding of the Day of The Lord.

Verses 1-2

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy – See Acts 17.

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus

Christ- Paul uses this greeting in this exact form in 8 of his 13 letters and with only a slight variation in the other 5.

Verses 3-4 Encouragement in Persecution

Their *faith* was growing – Verse 3

Their *love* was growing – Verse 3

Their *patience* was increasing – Verse 4

Their *testimony* was helping others – Verse 4

Verses 5-10 Encouragement to Continue Persevering

The promise of *reward* – Verse 5

Suffering does not help us *enter* the kingdom of God. Justification is always by faith alone in Christ alone! However, suffering does help us become *worthy* of the kingdom of God. Note 1 Thessalonians 2:12 and Romans 8:17-18.

The promise of *recompense* – Verses 6-9

Recompense means to be repaid. The believer will be given relief from affliction. The unbeliever will be repaid with affliction, will receive retribution, and will pay the penalty of eternal destruction

Jesus revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire – This refers to the 2nd coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation. Note the parallel in Revelation 19:11-21.

Retribution means punishment or vengeance. The idea is a just punishment.

To those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus – It appears the first group are those who have not formally heard the gospel and the second group are those who have heard and rejected the gospel. To *obey* the gospel is to believe the gospel. Note John 6:29 and 1 Peter 2:7-8.

Away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power – God grants to those who do not want to know Him their wish. They will spend eternity separated from Him. It appears that Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:10) and not specifically for mankind. God has made provision for mankind but each individual person must believe.

The promise of *rest* – Verse 10

To be marveled at among all who have believed - Old testament saints will be resurrected when Christ returns at the end of the tribulation (Isaiah 26:9, Daniel 12:1-2) and they, with the church and those alive at the end of the tribulation, will marvel at Jesus.

For our testimony to you was believed – Paul assures the Thessalonians that they would be there. “...in 1:5-10 Paul was seeking to comfort his readers by assuring them that ultimately they would experience relief by entering rest in the Millennium following Christ’s second coming. Ultimately God would punish their persecutors at the great white throne judgment at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:11-15).”¹

Thomas Constable

The Encouragement of Prayer – Verses 11-12

That our God may count you worthy of your calling - This echoes Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 4:1.

Note three concerns in Paul’s prayer:

1 – *Their worthiness* – He wanted them to be richly rewarded in the kingdom.

2 – *Their walk* – Their goodness and work of faith.

3 – *Their witness* – That the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you.

Chapter 1:

Encouragement in Persecution

Their *faith* was growing – Verse 3

Their *love* was growing – Verse 3

Their *patience* was increasing – Verse 4

Their *testimony* was helping others – Verse 4

Encouragement to Persevere

The promise of *reward* – Verse 5

The promise of *recompense* – Verses 6-9

The promise of *rest* – Verse 10

Encouragement of Prayer

Their *worthiness* – Verse 11

Their *walk* – Verse 11

Their *witness* – Verse 12

¹ Constable, Thomas. *Expository Notes on the Bible*.

<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/2thessalonians.pdf>, pp. 9-10.