

LESSON ONE: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-12

OASIS Bible Study - November 10-11, 2026

THE THEME OF 2 THESSALONIANS:

Stand _____(firm)! Stay the _____(course)!

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2
This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

> **Acts 18:1-5**
> *Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was.*
>
> *Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.*

DATE OF WRITING

Two letters to the same church, from the same team, from the same location, lead most scholars to believe that it was only a _____ _____ between 1 and 2 Thessalonians (AD 50-52).

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5
Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing. ***4*** *We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.* ***5*** *And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering.*

FOUR REASONS PAUL WAS THANKFUL

1. **Their faith was _____ (vs. 3).**

2. **Their love for one another was _____ (vs. 3).**

    1 John 4:7-8, 12
    Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

    No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

3. **They had remained _____ (vs. 4).**

    Endurance = to remain or stay _____.

OBSTACLES OR OPPORTUNITIES?

Genesis 50:20
You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

4. **Their future was _____ (vs. 5).**

    The Thessalonians weren't _____ because they were going through persecution, but their faithfulness in persecution was _____ of their salvation.

Romans 8:17
And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

2 Timothy 3:12
Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

1 Peter 1:6-7
6 There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold — though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

HOPE FOR BELIEVERS (Vs. 6-7)

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7
6 *In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you.* ***7*** *And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven.*

The Bible promises that God will one day bring _____ for evildoers and _____ for believers.

Justice vs. Revenge

Romans 12:17-19
17 *Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.* ***18*** *Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.*

19 *Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.*

WHO RECEIVES GOD'S JUDGMENT? (Vs. 7-10)

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10
He will come with his mighty angels, ***8*** *in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.* ***9*** *They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious*

power. [10] When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people — praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.

God's judgment is reserved for:

1. Those who don't _____ God.
2. Those who refuse to _____ the Gospel.

What about those people groups who have never heard about Jesus?

GENERAL REVELATION VS. SPECIAL REVELATION

1. GENERAL REVELATION

Refers to the way God has revealed Himself to _____ people, _____, throughout history.

Clearest examples of general revelation:

A. _____
B. Our _____

Psalm 19:1-4
The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.

Romans 1:18-20
[18] But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. [19] They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. [20] For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature…

Mankind has a moral compass. Another form of general revelation is our conscience.

Romans 2:14-15
14 *Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it.* ***15*** *They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.*

2. SPECIAL REVELATION

Refers to the way God has revealed Himself to specific _____ at specific _____ and specific _____ throughout history.

Where general revelation is indirect, special revelation is more direct. It's God revealing Himself in supernatural ways.

Special revelation makes knowing God possible. Special revelation tells us what God is like and how we can know Him personally.

Clearest examples of special revelation:

A. _____
B. _____

Hebrews 1:1-3
Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.

Colossians 1:15 & 19
Christ is the visible image of the invisible God… For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.

Romans 1:20
20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. ***So they have no excuse for not knowing God.***

2 Thessalonians 1:9
They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

C.S. Lewis in "The Great Divorce"
"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it.

2 Thessalonians 1:10
When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people — praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.

PAUL'S PRAYER (vs. 11-12)

If you were praying for these suffering believers, what would you ask God for?

Probably for protection. For the persecution to stop. For their lives to get better. Easier.

But notice how Paul prays.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
11 *So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.* ***12*** *Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Paul prays that God would enable them to remain _____.

REFLECT: When life gets difficult, what tends to happen to your faith in God and your love for others? What is one way you could respond differently the next time you face an obstacle in your life?

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