



Go for God!

## **“GLORIFY CHRIST!”**

### **The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the THESSALONIANS** **Introduction & Chapter 1**

> Author: Paul

> Date of Writing: A.D. 51

> Theme: ***“The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!”*** – The return of Christ is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament, more than any other doctrine and this epistle brings great hope to every believer.

> By Chapter: Chapter 1 – ***“Glorify our Lord Jesus Christ!”***  
Chapter 2 – ***“The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!”***  
(Insight into the coming “Antichrist”)  
Chapter 3 – ***“The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!”***

> Key verses: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2; 3:4-5

> Key chapter: **Chapter 2** – Paul explains that the ***“Day of the LORD”*** has not come, they did not miss the rapture; Christians must remain steady and be ready to meet our Lord in the air! (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

## **Chapter 1 – “GLORIFY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!”**

### **I) HOW TO GLORIFY CHRIST (v1-4) (three keys)**

#### **(v1-3a) Have FAITH that GROWS EXCEEEEEEEEEEDINGLY!**

Porter Barrington writes, “Faith defies reason; it moves mountains (Mt. 17:14-21). Faith does not always face facts; it never gives up (Heb. 11). Faith says, “God is working out His perfect will in my life, and I can wait, endure, and suffer.” Faith does not make everything easy, but it does make all things possible.” Our faith is not factional, that is to create factions, but we are of ***“one faith”*** (Eph. 4:4)

**F – FRUITFUL is delightful!** (Galatians 5:22-23)

**A – ACTS! (active faith)**

**I – INVITATION to salvation!**

**T – TRUTH sets the captive free!**

**H – HOLINESS brings happiness!**

**(v1-3b) Have ABOUNDING LOVE for all!** Jesus said in John 13:34-35 – *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* John the beloved writes in 1 John 4:8-11 - *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. Love can be known only from the actions it prompts, as seen in God's love in the gift of His Son.* One commentator writes, “Love found its perfect expression in the Lord Jesus. Christian love is the fruit of the Spirit of Jesus in the believer (Galatians 5:22). **Love is like oil to the wheels of obedience.** It enables us to run the way of God's commandments (Psalms 119:32). Without such love, we are as ***nothing*** (1 Corinthians 13:3). Such Spirit-inspired ***love never fails*** (1 Corinthians 13:8) but always flourishes.”

**(v4) HOPE!** – Here we see these Christians patiently enduring “persecutions” and “tribulations” –

**Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-16** - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **The Holy Spirit inspired Paul the apostle wrote in Romans 8:18-25** - *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.*

## **II) HOW NOT TO GLORIFY CHRIST (v5-10)**

**(v5-10)** The "righteous judgment of God" will come against those who reject God and rebel against God; His "vengeance" speaks of giving full punishment. Verse 9 reveals an "everlasting" punishment, whereas, the word "destruction" is *olethros* in the Greek, which does NOT REFER TO ANNIHILATION, but to ruination. It does not mean the cessation of existence but rather the loss of all that makes existence worthwhile (cf. 1 Tim. 6:9).

> **Understanding the doctrine of HELL** - The place of eternal punishment for the unrighteous. The NKJV and KJV use this word to translate Sheol and Hades, the Old and New Testament words, respectively, for the abode of the dead. Hell as a place of punishment translates *Gehenna*, the Greek form of the Hebrew word that means "the vale of Hinnom"-a valley just south of Jerusalem. In this valley the Canaanites worshiped Baal and the fire-god Molech by sacrificing their children in a fire that burned continuously. Even Ahaz and Manasseh, kings of Judah, were guilty of this terrible, idolatrous practice (2 Chron 28:3; 33:6).

The prophet Jeremiah predicted that God would visit such destruction upon Jerusalem that this valley would be known as the "Valley of Slaughter" (Jer 7:31-34; 19:2,6). In his religious reforms, King Josiah put an end to this worship. He defiled the valley in order to make it unfit even for pagan worship (2 Kings 23:10).

In the time of Jesus the Valley of Hinnom was used as the garbage dump of Jerusalem. Into it were thrown all the filth and garbage of the city, including the dead bodies of animals and executed criminals. To consume all this, fires burned constantly. Maggots worked in the filth. When the wind blew from that direction over the city, its awfulness was quite evident. At night wild dogs howled and gnashed their teeth as they fought over the garbage.

Jesus used this awful scene as a symbol of hell. In effect he said, "Do you want to know what hell is like? Look at the valley of Gehenna." So hell may be described as God's "cosmic garbage dump." All that is unfit for heaven will be thrown into hell.

The word *Gehenna* occurs 12 times in the New Testament. Each time it is translated as "hell." With the exception of James 3:6, it is used only by Jesus (Matt 5:22,29-30; 10:28; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47;

Luke 12:5). In Matt 5:22; 18:9; and Mark 9:47, it is used with "fire" as "hell fire." So the word hell (*Gehenna*) as a place of punishment is used in the New Testament by Him who is the essence of infinite love.

In Mark 9:46 and 48, hell is described as a place where "their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." Repeatedly Jesus spoke of outer darkness and a furnace of fire, where there will be wailing, weeping, and gnashing of teeth (Matt 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28). Obviously this picture is drawn from the valley of Gehenna

The Book of Revelation describes hell as "a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8). Into hell will be thrown the beast and the false prophet (Rev 19:20). At the end of the age the devil himself will be thrown into it, along with death and hades and all whose names are not in the Book of Life. "And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev 20:10b).

Because of the symbolic nature of the language, some people question whether hell consists of actual fire. Such reasoning should bring no comfort to the lost. The reality is greater than the symbol. The Bible exhausts human language in describing heaven and hell. The former is more glorious, and the latter more terrible, than language can express. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

**- Eternal or everlasting judgment in Hell – Jude 7; Revelation 20:1014; 21:8.**

(v7) The word **REST** speaks of the future happiness of believers. It is like that of the weary laborer after his day of toil; rest, like that of the soldier after the hardships of a long and perilous march; rest, like the calm repose of one who has been racked with pain. The word "rest" here anesis means a letting loose, a remission, a relaxation; and hence composure, quiet.

### **III) PRAY FOR JESUS CHRIST TO BE GLORIFIED IN YOU, THROUGH YOU, AND BY OTHERS!**

(v11-12) John MacArthur writes, "God takes sinners, worthy only of death (Rom. 1:32), and makes them worthy of His Kingdom by imputing Christ's righteousness to them (2 Cor. 5:21 – God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.)

**- What does a "WORTHY WALK" look like?** A worthy walk is a walk in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16, 25), humility (Eph. 4:2), purity (Rom. 13:13; Eph. 5:3), contentment (1 Cor. 7:17), faith (2 Cor. 5:7), righteousness (Eph. 2:10), unity (Eph. 4:3; Phil 1:27), gentleness (Eph. 4:2), patience (Col. 1:11), love (Eph. 5:2), joy (Col. 1:11), thankfulness (Col. 1:12), light (Eph. 5:8-9), knowledge (Col. 1:10). In short, "The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked" (1 John 2:6), because that pleases God (1Thess 4:1). Paul prayed that God would enable them to manifest the spiritual virtues that would make them worthy to be called Christians. Let's always PRAY for a "worthy walk" and a "work of faith with power!"

- The commentator Denney speaks of the finality of the gospel: "Obey, and you enter into a light in which there is no darkness at all: disobey, and you pass eventually into a darkness in which there is no light at all . . . It is not a question of less or more, of sooner or later, of better or worse; what is at stake in our attitude to the gospel is life or death, heaven or hell, the outer darkness or the glory of Christ."