

2 THESSALONIANS 1 AN ENCOURAGING WORD

First and Second Thessalonians were the first two books of the Apostle's to be written.

The Apostle Paul wrote them FROM the City of Corinth on his second missionary journey, about 20 years after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2 Thessalonians was written just a few months after the first letter.

The little letters are short, personal, and very subject oriented as the Apostle is answering questions brought to him from the church at Thessalonica by his personal assistant and protégé, Timothy.

- Second Thessalonians in the 53rd book in the English translation. It has three chapters, 47 verses and 1022 words.

THE CITY OF THESSALONICA

The city itself was built on the ruins of an ancient city named "Therme." Named so because of the natural hot springs which still exist there to this day.

It was renamed Thessalonica in 315 B.C. by the King of Macedonia, Cassander, in honor of his wife. She, BTW was the Sister of Alexander the Great.

Like the city of Jerusalem, Thessalonica was conquered and RE-conquered by the Romans, the Goths, The Normans, The Turks, and others. The City is SO well placed in the central part of Greece the even in WW1, We used it as an airbase.

Thessalonica has a natural harbor that also makes it a valued city to conquer and it was conquered often.

And so to the believers of this city Paul writes his second letter of encouragement.

In CHAPTER 1

Intro: Some things have changed since Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. For one - The persecution they had been suffering through had grown worse.

The persecution was hard - For the Thessalonians, AND for the Apostle who loved them, BUT the Apostle knew it would serve to strengthen them - and it did!

Another problem was that some had begun quitting their jobs and hanging around the church waiting for the return of Jesus. This put an added burden on the church trying to feed them. Paul will reprimand these free-loaders telling them to get back to work, and take care of themselves!

In the first chapter Paul will share three encouragements with them:

The encouragement of Praise - V1-4

The encouragement of promise - V5-10

The encouragement of prayer - V11-12

CHAPTER ONE

Paul, Silvanus, **(AKA Silas)** and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians **in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:**

- Chuck Smith says that this the best place for a church to be...
- May CCSV always be "in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Why grace and then peace?
 - Without grace there is no peace.

THE APPRECIATIVE APOSTLE

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 that you endure,

- **Wiersbe** – “A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.”
- **Believers** – You should expect for your faith to be tested. God already knows the test results... **The test is FOR US to know!**
- You can read about modern day persecution of Believers at opendoorsusa.org
 - There are many countries where professing to be a Christian will get you arrested and executed too.
 - We are blessed to have the freedom we enjoy, BUT... persecution has always resulted in revival too. It was the result in the Thessalonica Church.
 - SO... Should we pray for revival? YES! Then buckle up.

THE JUDGMENT AT CHRIST'S COMING

5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with **tribulation** those who trouble you,

- **CEV** - All of this shows that God judges fairly and that he is making you fit to share in his kingdom for which you are suffering. 6 It is only right for God to punish everyone who is causing you trouble,
- God IS paying attention to both you and your struggles; and to those who are troubling you.
- SO... God is preparing the great tribulation for His enemies.... NOT FOR YOU!

RESTITUTION AND REST

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.

- When the Lord appears IN THE air He will be coming **FOR** His Church...
- When He returns to judge the earth, He will return **WITH** His Church!
- Woe to those remaining ON the earth. It will be tribulation and wrath from the anger of God.
- What will happen to them?

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

- What a terrible punishment – to never be allowed into the presence of the Lord... Ever! I cannot imagine it...
- On October 6th we read about when God told Jeremiah to stop praying for Israel to be saved... That it was too late for them... That God would not even listen to their cries any more... It was nauseating to even imagine being in that state, and yet, THAT IS what it will be like in the tribulation.
- There are few things that I enjoy more than basking in the Lord's presence... I know that when I worship Him... He is pleased. Can you imagine a world where you were never allowed to worship Jesus?

UNBELIEVERS WILL SUFFER...

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.

- Jesus is coming as Conqueror on that Day AND the people He is coming to conquer will NOT be happy about His appearance.
- Isn't that hard to picture? SO...

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, 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.

What a sweet prayer for his precious church...

I pray it for you too CCSV.

I pray that God will find us faithfully serving Him and loving Him as we faithfully serve our community and love them as Christ has loved us!

May we glorify God in all that we do, Amen?