

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER ONE

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Paul, Silas and Timothy wrote this letter very soon after the first letter. They had received further news about the Thessalonians while they were still in Corinth. What a contrast between the church at Corinth and the Thessalonian church. These two letters to the Thessalonians may be the earliest of the letters of Paul that we have.

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

Notice that grace and peace show up together as that do in all of Paul's letters. Grace is always first followed by peace.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Your faith and love for each other is increasing. We thank God for you, our brethren because your faith is growing. It must be a wonderful feeling for minister to see a congregation, he has started ,growing by leaps and bounds. That is what Paul,and his friends were seeing here.

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Apparently,since the Holy Spirit mentions this several times in both letters to the Thessalonians,there must have been some real persecution going on among the members of that church. As I have said before we don't get much of that in our country but there have been exceptions. For one example,take the early Baptist ministers in this country. They were often arrested and beaten for “preaching without a license”.Of course they couldn't get a license so they really had no choice..

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Since God is a righteous judge He will deal harshly with the persecutors. Verse five and forward are dealing with the end time when God will cast the unsaved into the lake of fire.

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

What he is saying here is that God would take care of those who were persecuting them and they would live in the coming Kingdom with Him.

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

These persecutors are going to spend eternity in Hell. The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Hell is the grave. While that may be comforting to them while they are alive they need to concentrate on verse eight. If there is ever any doubt that Hell is literal place with literal fire verse eight should put that to rest. Before I leave this be aware that Jesus quoted a verse from Isaiah three times in the New Testament. That would be Isa 66:24 which reads as follows. **And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.**

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

The picture here is after the battle of Armageddon as that is when He comes

with his saints. Jesus will receive all the honor and the praise because of what he has done for his people. Remember that Jesus has not only saved us from our sins but he is also the Creator of the universe and everything in it. For this and all else He has done He certainly deserves all the honor and praise.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

In addition to thanking God for the Thessalonians, Paul, Silas and Timothy also pray that they will use the power God has given them through the holy Spirit. Just because we are sure that God will keep his promise does not mean that we should stop praying for it. Paul wants the Thessalonians to live to please God. They know that no one can do this in their own strength so a part of this prayer is that God will help them by his power.

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We would say "be sure to give God the glory".

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER TWO

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

At first glance these next verses would seem to be speaking of the Rapture but in reality they refer to the Tribulation and the Second Advent. Paul has already taught the Thessalonians that Christ would return. The false teachers had popped up again and were spreading the teaching that the Lord had already returned. Paul is just reassuring the congregation that all of them would be with the Lord and that none would be left behind.

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Some people claim that the day of the Lord has already come. There may even be prophecies that say that. If so, they are false. These prophecies this is referring to are the false prophecies given by the tongues speakers and their interpreters. There will even be letters, saying that, that seem to have come from us, but we did not write them.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Now with this verse we see that we are in the middle of the Tribulation period. Two things must happen. First there is the “falling away”. This falling away is well started but the second thing has not surfaced yet. The antichrist, must be revealed and very few recognize him for what he is until this happens.

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This is the revealing of the Antichrist spoken of in verse three. He defiles the Jewish temple and claims to be God. Remember too that this guy is able to perform some awesome miracles including the ability to call down fire from Heaven. We, as Christians, are not waiting for him to be revealed. We have a Bible and know what he is and approximately when he is coming on the scene. More to the point, we will be long gone when he sets himself up in the temple.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

Let's look at Daniel 11:36 and 37 to see what he says about this “man of sin”. **And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the**

indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women,nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Now notice that he does not worship any god, including the true God. He has no desire for women which may possibly suggest that he is a homosexual. He is totally self centered and demands worship from everyone.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Verse seven is a beautiful verse. Remember,we have discussed that the old use of the word “let” means to hinder. So here we have the one who is hindering the Antichrist and that is none other than the Holy Spirit. The last part of the verse says,in effect,that the Antichrist can not come to power until the Holy Spirit is taken out. Since the Holy Spirit is taken out with the Church at the Rapture it is only then that the Antichrist can begin his rise to power.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

These verses eight and nine,tell us that most of the earth's population will be deceived by this person and will follow him without question. Now,this next isn't scripture but my belief. I think the false prophet and Antichrist will rise to power following a global economic collapse. They will be the ones who can fix the problem. Now watch these next three verses carefully.

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

We have only lost people in verses 10,11 and 12. They have rejected a clear presentation of the gospel, and now, on the wrong side of the Rapture, they no longer have a choice and are damned to Hell. They cannot be saved because God has sent them a strong delusion and they have believed the lie of the Antichrist. Now we do know that there are multitudes saved during the tribulation but these are Jews, and children and others who had not heard a clear presentation of the gospel before the Rapture.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is Paul again reassuring his converts that God will not let them slip away. They are called by God and they are safe forever. There is that important phrase again. The gospel Paul calls “my gospel” or as he does here “our gospel”. It is truly “our gospel”. That is, the gospel that we believe for salvation in this present age.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

The traditions they have been taught are the Old Testament scriptures as well as the things God revealed to Paul.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

The “good hope through grace” is the same “blessed hope spoken of in other places.

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER THREE

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

Paul is asking the congregation to pray that God will open doors for him to preach. These prayers are not for themselves but rather that others may accept the gospel that they preach.

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

It was unreasonable and wicked men that sent Jesus to the cross. True, it was the Jews that accused him but from the accusation on no Jew touched him until Joseph and Nicodemus came to bury him. It was Rome and, by extension, Gentiles.

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Now we have a great promise. The Lord is faithful and able to protect us from evil. A part of your daily prayers should be that the Lord protect you from Satan and his helpers. This nonsense you see on television about rebuking the devil is just that, nonsense. Satan is hundreds of times more powerful than you and I and we have absolutely no power against him except the Lord Jesus Christ protects us.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

They need the Lord's help to lead proper Christian lives. That is still very true today. They need to realize the love that God has for them and that the love of God will be a strong force in their lives. Now, beginning in verse six, the prayers have stopped and it seems that Paul has thought of something else to warn the congregation about.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Paul was a tent maker by trade and worked at that trade as he traveled on his missionary journeys. Now, the Bible clearly tells us to take care of our men of God but Paul preferred to work so as not to have any of the enemies of the church say that he only preached to live off the membership. In other words, Paul was in no way like our current crop of TV con men. *Mention here that one who was caught twice, in New Orleans, with prostitutes. He claimed he and his wife lived in a modest, two bedroom house. I saw the house and it may have been only two bedrooms but there was easily room for twenty. It was a huge, two story mansion on several prime acres of land. Remember that other one who had air conditioned dog houses. That's widows and orphans money people.*

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

Now he has given us one of the reasons for not living off the people. He wants to set a good example.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

We have heard this one before. Notice that this is a commandment and it applies to every able bodied person including especially those in your own family. Why did I say especially those in your own family? I am thinking of children here and you, as parents, have an obligation from God to teach your children a good work ethic. If you allow them to grow up doing nothing then that is exactly what they will do when they are grown. If they won't work

then do not feed them. It really is that simple.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

Here is a further take on the business of those not working, not eating. Notice that these people he is referring to seem to be accepted members of the congregation who are lazy, disorderly, (that goes with the territory), and busybodies, (that is a gossip). In other words they are not working but riding on the backs of the other members of the congregation and since they are not working they have plenty of time for those other things mentioned.

Fortunately, we do not have any of those here. Before we leave this verse look back at verse six and you will see that, in God's sight, laziness takes its place right alongside drunkenness, fornication and idolatry. That should make you want to get up and do something.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

Do not get tired of doing God's work. I have seen good people give up and move on to another church just because they were frustrated with all the things being put on them. Immediate family should always come before church.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Paul, thinks that some will not obey the command to work so he tells the other members how to deal with them. In some denominations it is called shunning. In other words, have nothing more to do with these people until they repent and clean up their act. When they do that, welcome them back into the fellowship. Notice also that this is a matter for the whole church to act upon. It is not the action of one or two people. All the Christians need to know what is to be done to the wayward member(s) and why, scripturally, it is

being done.

Now comes Paul's final prayer in this letter.

**16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means.
The Lord be with you all.**

The Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ. The peace spoken of is inner peace from the Lord Jesus that nothing can take away. . The prayer is that the Lord Jesus would give this peace to the Thessalonians but it also applies to us some 2000 years later.

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

Up to this point Paul had dictated the letter. Now he takes the pen and writes the final words of blessing.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.