

2 Thessalonians

Paul had come to Thessalonica, he went into the synagogue for three Sabbath days reasoning with them out of the Scriptures. And the interest became so intense that on the third day, almost the whole city had gathered together, which created a jealousy by some of the Jews that were there.

And so they began to stir up trouble against Paul. And they came to the house where Paul was staying to arrest him. And Paul had already got word of the problems, and so he had left and gone towards Berea. Trouble also developed in Berea after a few weeks. And so Paul's companions, Silas and Timothy, stayed in Berea to strengthen the brethren while Paul went to Athens. When they joined Paul in Athens, Silas and Timothy, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to encourage the brethren and find out how they were doing. And he and Silas and Luke headed on down to Corinth.

While Paul was in Corinth, and Paul was there for about two years, Timothy came with word concerning the Church in Thessalonica, which prompted Paul's first epistle, some of the problems that were there. And so Timothy was sent back to Thessalonica with the first letter. And still other questions were unresolved, or problems still existed that Timothy told Paul about when he returned again. And so Paul wrote this second letter, probably within a year from the first letter.

Chapter 1

v.1 Church in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ- the comfort and security of knowing that we are in Him

v.2 Grace and peace- peace because we received grace

v.3 Bound to thank God- owe it thank God, can do nothing else- *1 Thessalonians 1:3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,*

- 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; (10) and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; (11) that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

Faith grows exceedingly

Faith needs to grow, we can't always look back to the glory days.

How do we grow in faith ?

1) Life itself causes growth- none of us are satisfied just to be alive physically, we want to be healthy, satisfied, fulfilled, we continue to eat and drink to sustain that life. We watch what we eat etc.

a) every part of an infants body is prepared for growth, it is natural for things alive to grow

b) stay hooked into the life sources- The Word, Pray

2) For faith to grow it must be exercised, we understand this in a physical sense the same applies to our faith, use it.

3) Faith grows by fellowship

a) *Luke 8:5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold."..... "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.*

What are the evidences of that growth ?

1) Our relationship with the Lord will become more precious

2) We will have more of a desire to be Christlike

3) We will love the saints- not just be able to see how others don't

4) Growth in our zeal

Love abounds toward one another

v.4-5 The manifest evidence is not the tribulations but the patience and faith in the midst of them- evidence of righteous judgment- we have been judged righteous by God- counted worthy- the suffering does not make us worthy but it does make us to be witnesses of Him

v.7 This is not the coming for His saints in 1 Thessalonians 4 but the coming in judgment of *Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

v.8 Those who do not know God- Romans 1 tells us that everyone has been given a knowledge of God in their heart and through His creation, there are always those who say what about those who haven't heard the gospel, they will be judged for the revelation that they have had and their rejection of it- " There is none righteous, no not one "

- those who do not obey the gospel- heard and rejected, if you hear message and don't receive Jesus this is you

v.9 Everlasting destruction- different than eternal destruction, eternal would be destroyed forever, everlasting is constantly in a state of destruction

Turn to Revelation 19

v.11 Jesus comes back in victory- this now takes us back to the chapter 16 as we see the world gathered to fight

- 3 names Faithful & True (was); Word of God (is); King of kings and Lord of lords (shall be)

Faithful

- (*Deu 7:9 NKJV*) *"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

- (*Hosea 11:12 NKJV*) *"Ephraim has encircled Me with lies, And the house of Israel with deceit; But Judah still walks with God, Even with the Holy One who is faithful.*

- (*2 Th 3:3 NKJV*) *But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.*

- (*2 Tim 2:13 NKJV*) *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

- (Heb 2:17 NKJV) *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

- (Heb 10:23 NKJV) *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

- (1 John 1:9 NKJV) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- (Rev 3:14 NKJV) *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

True

- (John 1:14 NKJV) *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- (John 1:17 NKJV) *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

He makes war righteously- He gives man grace upon grace and is justified when man continues to reject that grace and chooses punishment

Eyes like a flame of fire- judgment

On His head many crowns- He alone is King

A Name no one knew

- we will never know the depths of His love and sacrifice for us

Robe dipped in blood- *see Isaiah 63*

The Word of God- He is the Father's revelation to us

back to 2 Thessalonians

v.10 Glorified in His saints admired by those who believe by

- those who have believed through our testimony

- we are always being watched , we don't know the effect our testimony has

v.11 We pray

1) God would count you worthy - or use you, make your walk worth something

- of this calling- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them*

2) Fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness

-Eric Liddell- "when I run, I feel His pleasure

3) Fulfill the work faith with power- be witnesses

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

4) Name of Jesus be glorified in you

5) You would be glorified in Him

All of this according to His grace- Abounding Grace