

# Encouragement for the Persecuted Church

## Study 1. 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

**Introduction:** Greetings to the Church. 2 Thess. 1:1-2

1. Who are the authors? 1:1a
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who are the recipients? 1:1b \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The blessing. 1:2
  - a. Of what does the blessing consist?
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What is the source of the blessing?
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Paul is Grateful for the Thessalonians' Faith and Love, and for Their Endurance of Persecution. 1:3-5**

1. To whom did Paul believe he was obligated to give thanks? 1:3a To \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. For whom did Paul believe he was obligated to give thanks? 1:3b For \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Paul identified three reasons why he ought to give thanks for these Thessalonian believers. What were they? 1:3c-5
  - a. Because their \_\_\_\_\_ 1:3c
  - b. Because of their increasing \_\_\_\_\_ 1:3d

- c. The third reason has to do with their \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ . 1:4-5. Paul and his assistants spoke proudly among the other churches of God for the Thessalonians'
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 1:4a
  - 2) and \_\_\_\_\_ amidst all their 1:4b
    - a) \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) and \_\_\_\_\_ which they were enduring.
  - 3) The Thessalonians' successful endurance of persecution was 1:5
    - a) "A plain indication" of what? \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) Their endurance indicated they were to be considered worthy of what? \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) For what were they suffering? \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is the last Sunday of the old year. As we face a new year, do you anticipate increased suffering for Christians in our country? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you anticipate increased suffering for Christians in other countries? \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain...)
5. What have you learned about suffering so far in 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5 that motivates you to endure persecution? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**B. God's Retribution on the Thessalonians' Persecutors 1:6-10**

1. The JUSTICE of God's paying people back. 1:6-7a
  - a. What is it just (fair) for God to repay? 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_ for those who \_\_\_\_\_ you.
  - b. What is it just (fair) for God to give to those who are being afflicted? 1:7a \_\_\_\_\_. (By the way, Paul and his group expected to receive this also, for they were regularly being afflicted.)

2. The OCCASION of God's "pay back." 1:7b The occasion would be when the \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. From what place will He be revealed? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Who will be coming with Him? His \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What terrifying phenomenon will accompany Him? \_\_\_\_\_!
  
3. The DESCRIPTION of God's "pay back." 1:8
  - a. What will Jesus deal out? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. To whom will He deal out this retribution?
    - 1) To those who do not \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) To those who do not obey what? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. The DESCRIPTION of those being PAID BACK 1:9. These will pay the penalty of \_\_\_\_\_. Where?
  - a. Away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord
  - b. Away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_.
  
5. The DESCRIPTION of those glorying in His return. 1:10
  - a. On that day, Jesus will come to be \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_!
  - b. On that day, Jesus will be \_\_\_\_\_ at among all who have \_\_\_\_\_!

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<sup>1</sup> 1:7 - revealed: The word "revealed" translates the word *apokalupsis* (602), which literally means "unveiling." When Jesus Christ returns to this earth to judge all rebels, it means the veil that covered His glory and power and actions during His life of ministry here upon earth will be removed. Jesus did not come the first time to condemn people, but to die to save them. When He comes back to set up His Kingdom and reign upon earth, that veil of restraint and gentleness will be removed. Unbelievers will see the King in all His terrible fury against evil, and they will cry out in terror because of Him (see Matthew 24:30 and Revelation 1:7). They will be terrified with good reason, for He will put to death all rebels and all who did not respond positively to the good news about Him. They will be consigned to a terrible, agonizing destiny away from Jesus, the King! How ghastly, yet how true!

- c. (Paul reminds the Thessalonian Christians who are reading this letter...) “For our \_\_\_\_\_ to you was \_\_\_\_\_.”

**C. Paul’s Prayer for the Thessalonians. 1:11-12**

- 1. Paul and his assistants prayed constantly for the new Thessalonian believers. 1:11
  - a. He prayed that God would count them \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. He prayed that God would fulfill in their lives every
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3) with what? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What was the motive for his prayer? 1:12a
  - a. “So that the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus will be \_\_\_\_\_ in you”
  - b. And so that they as Christians might be glorified \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. What was the leverage for his prayer? 1:12b
  - a. “According to the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God”
  - b. [and according to the grace of] the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_!

**D. Thinking about 2 Thessalonians 1.**

- 1. What kind of perspective do you have about the return of Jesus Christ based upon this chapter (2 Thessalonians 1)?
- 2. How is this return different from the Rapture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (The Rapture is described primarily in what three central passages?)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

- c. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is 2 Thessalonians 1 the same as 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 or the same as Matthew 24?
  4. Is 2 Thessalonians 1 the same as 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 or the same as Revelation 19:11-21?
  5. Is 2 Thessalonians 1 the same as John 14:1-3 or the same as Zechariah 14:1-15?
  6. What is going to happen to people who kill Christians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  7. What is going to happen to people who reject the Good News about Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  8. Does 2 Thessalonians 1 give you any motivation to tell other people about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**2 Thessalonians 1**

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