

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Worthy of the Kingdom of God

2 Thessalonians is Paul's letter to explain what he wrote in Thessalonian 1. He wrote Thes. 2 while he was still in Corinth. The year was 50 or 51 A.D.

In the 2nd letter more than the first, the matter of the 2nd coming of Christ or the return of the Lord Jesus Christ plays an important role. However, the treatment of this subject is not the same in both letters.

In 1Thes., the manner in which Christ returns is discussed, i.e., suddenly and unexpectedly. Over the years some have taught the imminent or immediate return of Christ, which it doesn't.

In 2 Thes., the return of Christ is the main issue. More precisely, the main issue is this: what we can expect to take place before Christ's return. That is the primary point being made. There are also other matters as well; maturity, suffering, and practical issues like idleness in the Body of Christ.

Timothy had been sent to Thessalonica to see how things were going in the church there. Upon returning, he reported that the Christians were standing steadfast against great tribulation.

Why Paul wrote them a 2nd letter

1. Persecution was so severe that Paul felt the need to explain why God allows His people to suffer for the kingdom and how He will put things right.
2. Thessalonians were being deceived through a false teaching that claimed to be coming from Paul, but in fact was a forgery, 2 Thess. 2:1-3. Paul needed to remind them of God's calendar, and especially that the return of Christ would be preceded by the Antichrist, 2 Thes. 2:3-12.

As you can remember, in the first letter, Paul praised and encouraged the Christians for their steadfastness, **1 Thes. 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,*

Now he learned that there was still a great deal of confusion in the church about the coming of the Lord.

Paul's greeting

*To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*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 ^[a]tribulations that you endure,***

Paul in his greeting stresses the real source of strength and endurance for Christians in times of pressure; God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul defending his previous words

He ought to thank and praise God for the brothers, because, *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 ^[a]tribulations that you endure,**⁵ which is manifest^[b] evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be **counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;***

In the 1 Thes. 1: 3, Paul mentioned this already. The faith and love toward each other of the Thessalonians was very apparent. He speaks differently over them than when he wrote the Corinthians a letter about love 1 Cor. 13. The Corinthian church wasn't doing well in this respect. young couples)

They had retained their faith even in the face of persecution. They had not wavered. They had not abandoned Christ. They had proven themselves not to be fair weather Christians, but to be in it for better or worse. For Paul these were the marks of a maturing vibrant church – a church where the Spirit had taken hold.

However, now he doesn't mention hope. This is an indication that the believers were losing hope. At least their hope was not clear to them.

Many churches are in the same situation. They seem to be confused about the hope that they are aiming at. What about you brothers and sisters?

That is why Paul addresses this issue in the Thessalonian church. He knows that if the church does not have a hope, it will ultimately undermine their work of faith and their labor of love. When hope is lost, faith and love are soon as well.

Encouragement and warning

Why are they suffering and are persecuted?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Worthy of the Kingdom of God

Christians nowadays are living under persecution and heavy trials too. What are your trials these days brother /sister?

Paul reveals to us that this is to make us worthy of the kingdom of God. Also, this is evidence that God is working among us. You can't endure, you can't hang on, unless you are being strengthened by the Spirit of God.

The fact that you can go on even when under trial or pressure is because of strength that you receive from the Spirit of God.

We can say three things regarding our suffering:

1. God is using it to prepare us for the kingdom reign that we will have with Him in the near future. Actually, God is revealing our worthiness of the kingdom of God. The fact that you can remain standing under pressure is evidence that you have been taken out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred in to the kingdom of God's Son (5).

2. Through our suffering, God is revealing the condemnation of the world. He is going to "repay with tribulation those who trouble you" (6).

Hebrew 11:35 – 38, *Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourging, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, ^[k]were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

V8, *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.*

3. God will bring rest to His own (7) "give you who are troubled rest with us".

When will that be?

Glorified in His people

When will this happen? V9-10

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorify

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Worthy of the Kingdom of God

ied in His saints and to be admired among all those who [\[d\]](#)believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

His coming down will start a series of event, called Parousia, the presence of Jesus.

Christ in you, the hope of glory

It has always been Paul's desire for himself but also for the believers, that we will be manifesting God's glory in our lives.

¹⁴And 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 1:14.

It is Jesus who manifests God's glory on earth. Christians have an example and pattern to follow.

If we allow Jesus to come in to our hearts and life, we will become His channel to manifest God's glory on earth. And this will set us apart.

It also condemns the world for rejecting Christ.

Jesus was perfect in His humanity, He bore the likeness of God and He was God. He showed us how God intended men to be. Created in His image and behaving as God's plan was for His creation.

Jesus commanded us in **Mat. 5:18, Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

We can be perfect if we allow Jesus Christ to take hold of us and to lead us.