



## 2 Thessalonians 1

### Lesson 1

Persecution of believers was growing worse in Thessalonica. Thus, Paul saw the need for a second letter. In this first chapter we find Paul encouraging them in three areas: praise, promise, and prayer. May you discover that this encouragement was equally intended for you and glorify God in your responses.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read 2 Thessalonians 1**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God/Father* and *Jesus*.  
Key Words: *God, Jesus, grace, peace, faith, love, patience/endure, tribulation(s)/suffer/trouble(d), glory/glorified, believe(d), goodness, and any phrases or words that refer to the coming of Christ.*
3. As you glance through the key words, you may notice that this chapter contains several words from Galatians 5:22,23. List the fruit of the Spirit evident in the lives of these believers in Thessalonica.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* was used in verse 11. Mark the word. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.
5. Jesus was referred to many times in this chapter. List three things Paul wrote about Him.

## 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4 - The Encouragement of Praise

1. After greeting his friends, Paul launched into a statement of praise to God for what He had been accomplishing in their lives. Fill in the blanks to discover what Paul was thankful for in their lives.

*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ exceedingly, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of every one of you \_\_\_\_\_  
toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_,*

2. What was Paul's prayer for them as expressed in 1 Thessalonians 3:10?
  - a. How does *faith* grow?
  - b. What keeps *faith* from growing?
  - c. What are some evidences in a believer's life that exhibits a *growing faith*?

3. What was Paul's prayer for them as expressed in 1 Thessalonians 3:12?

- a. Describe *love* that *abounds*.
- b. What can a believer do to *abound in love* when she knows she is lacking in *love toward others*?

4. Paul *boasted* of their *patience and faith in the persecutions and tribulations they endured*. These believers not only *endured persecutions and tribulations*, they did so in *patience and faith*. Look up the following verses and record one truth or command from each that relates to enduring *persecutions and tribulations*.

Romans 5:3-5

Hebrews 12:1-3

James 1:3

James 5:8,11

- a. In what way is a person's faith strengthened through *persecutions* and *tribulations*?
- b. Share something you have learned through *tribulation*.
- c. What would you tell a new believer if they asked you how they can *endure* a tribulation?
- d. Why is it important to have *patience* and *faith* in difficult times?
- e. What are some truths that are important to *believe* in difficult times?

## **2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10 - The Encouragement of Promise**

1. Read through these verses and record the fate of those who *trouble believers*.
2. In contrast, what does God promise believers?
3. What is *manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God*? verse 5
  - a. To us, suffering often seems to deny God's righteous purpose; but where suffering is coupled with righteous endurance, God's work is done. What does Philippians 1:28-30 say that adds to your understanding?

4. Consider the phrase *that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God* in 2 Thessalonians 1:5. How is *enduring persecutions and tribulations with patience and faith* evidence of our salvation?
  
5. According to verse 6,7, what two things is God *righteous* to do?
  
6. Using Matthew 13:42, describe the *punishment* that awaits the unbeliever.
  - a. The Bible frequently describes the *everlasting destruction* that the unbeliever will experience. According to 2 Thessalonians 1: 9, what two things will the unbeliever be excluded from?
  
  - b. In stark contrast, use Revelation 21:22-27 to describe the *glory* that awaits the believer.
  
7. Meditate on the phrase *to be admired among all those who believe* in 2 Thessalonians 1:10. What do you think you will do to show your *admiration* to Jesus?
  - a. What can you do now to show your *admiration* to Him?

## **2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12 - The Encouragement of Prayer**

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:11 begins with the term of conclusion, *therefore*. Because we can expect difficult times and we can expect God to be *righteous*, Paul prayed for them. According to verses 11,12, what did Paul pray?
  
2. When we read the phrase, *that our God would count you worthy of this calling*, we may be astounded that that would be possible. Rather than consider our *worthiness*, our focus should be on living a life that walks in a way that reflects our calling. What does 1 Peter 1:6-9 state that describes a life that walks *worthy*?
  - a. What was Paul's plea in Ephesians 4:1?

3. Reflect upon Kenneth Wuest's literal translation of 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12:

*To which end also we are praying always for you, namely, that our God may count you worthy of the station in life to which He has called you, and fulfill every delight in goodness and every work that finds its source in faith with power, in order that the Name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God, even the Lord Jesus Christ.*

a. What does Paul pray that God will *fulfill* in you?

1.) What must be the *source* of our *good works*?

a.) What do you think it means to do *good works in faith*?

2.) We can only do *good works in faith* by the *power* of the Holy Spirit. What are some *good works* His *power* enables us to do?

b. What is the chief purpose of our *good works*?

1.) When Christ is *glorified*, He is recognized for who He is. How do *good works glorify* Him?

4. 2 Thessalonians speaks both of Christ's *grace* and *glory*. Bask in these verses which mention both words and share a few of your thoughts.

**Psalm 84:11** For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**Romans 5:2** through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**1 Peter 5:10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

**REVIEW:**

1. What encouragement did you discover in verses 3,4 to walk in:

faith

endurance

2. What encouragement did you discover in the promises of verses 5-10?

3. What encouragement did you discover in Paul's prayer in verses 11,12?

*Yet the righteous will hold to his way,  
And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.  
-Job 17:9*

## Observation Worksheet

### 2 Thessalonians 1

**1** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, 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. **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, **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, **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. **9** 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 glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. **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.