

2 Thessalonians

Lesson 8: 2 Thessalonians 1

After studying 1 Thessalonians, we know Paul wrote that letter from Corinth after receiving the news about the Thessalonians from Timothy. A few months later, Paul received another report about the Thessalonians which prompted him to write 2 Thessalonians. Although we don't know what the report was or who it came from, we can gain an understanding of what it was based upon the contents in his letter. Let's dive into chapter one and see how Paul gave encouragement to a church experiencing growing persecution.

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1–2**

1. In verse 1, what preposition does Paul use to describe the Thessalonians position? How does Christianity differ from every other religion in the world?

2. In verse 2, what two words does Paul use to describe what believers have received from God? Why would the second word be important for a church experiencing persecution?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3–4**

3. In verse 3, the word “ought” (NASB) means “bound, to be obligated, or indebted to.” Why would Paul feel “indebted” to the Thessalonians in praying for them to God? Hint: the next question will help you answer this.

4. What two things does Paul highlight in the Thessalonians lives? Who is responsible for giving them the growth?

5. In verse 4, Paul tells the Thessalonians he boasts about them to other churches. What does he boast about?

Application: Paul “bragged” about the church at Thessalonica. If you were telling your friend about your church, what qualities or features would you “brag” about? Why are these things important to keep in mind?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5–8**

6. Although the persecution was hard and undeserving, in verse 5, what helped the Thessalonians to endure? What will they be counted worthy of?

Application: How does a Christian develop a kingdom mind-set like the Thessalonians? What steps do you need to take to develop that mind-set?

7. When we repay evil, we usually do it out of anger or for selfish reasons. According to verse 6, what attribute describes and affirms God’s repayment?

8. In verse 7, what will persecuted believers ultimately receive? When will this happen?

9. In verse 8, how does Paul describe the two different classes of unbelievers?

Application: Why is it wrong for you to repay evil with evil? What are some current struggles that you have with this? How can you overcome those struggles in that moment?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:9–12**

10. In verse 9, Paul gives three descriptions of what hell will be like. What are they?

11. Many people think God will not be present in hell. “Presence” in verse 9 means “personal presence or relational circumstance” and can mean “in the face of.” Compare this verse with Psalm 139:7–8 and Revelation 14:10. What do these verses tell us?

12. In verse 10, what is “that day?” How do you know? What two things will happen on that day?

13. In verse 11, what two things does Paul pray for the believers in Thessalonica?

Application: Paul prayed in verse 11, as he did in verse 5, that they would live “worthy of their calling.” What are ways you can grow and become more consistent with the Christian walk?

14. In verses 10 and 12, Paul’s prayer is for Christ to be “glorified” in them (see also verse 10). What does this mean?

Application: Whether we are living comfortably or experiencing suffering, our goal is to bring glory and honor to Christ. How can you honor Him today? List two ways.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in chapter 1? Why?