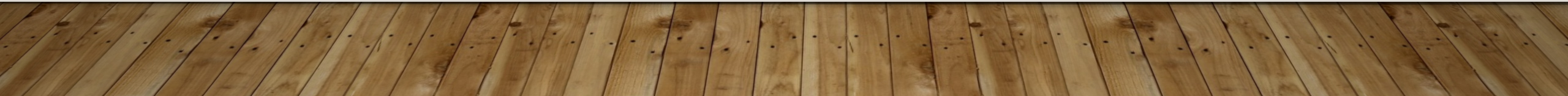


DON'T BE DECEIVED ABOUT THE TIMES.

2 THESSALONIANS

BOOK OVERVIEW AND SURVEY OF ALL CHAPTERS (1-3)



2 THESSALONIANS — BOOK OVERVIEW

- History: persecution of Thessalonian saints
- History: error—Jesus already returned? end is happening?
- Pastoral: written to shepherd them through some issues
- Audience: believers in Thessaloniki
- Timing: Probably not long after 1 Thessalonians

2 THESSALONIANS DISTINCTIVE TRAITS & UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Strong contributions to eschatological chronology
 - e.g. prerequisites to the day of the Lord (2:3)
 - e.g. “man of lawlessness” (2:3b-4)
- Focus: future eschatology isn't immediate.
- Unique punishment vs. hope scene (1:7-10)
- Pastoral purposes of eschatology (not just raw prophecy)



2 THESSALONIANS

BELIEF IN JESUS' RETURN & HOPE FOR FINAL JUSTICE

NOT SPECULATION ABOUT TIMELINES



INSPIRED HOPE & FAITHFULNESS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

WHAT YOU BELIEVE FOR SHAPES WHAT YOU BELIEVE FOR.

1 HOPE DESPITE PERSECUTION

11-13

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

I THANK GOD FOR YOUR FAITH, LOVE, ENDURANCE.

PERSECUTION HAS INTENSIFIED

SUFFERING - PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S KINGDOM

JESUS' FOLLOWERS SHOW THEIR VICTORY THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE & ENDURANCE

THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY

THEY WILL BE BANISHED AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD & FROM THE GLORY OF HIS POWER

JESUS' RETURN = FINAL JUSTICE

11-12

THAT THE LORD JESUS BE HONORED THROUGH YOU.

2 THE DAY OF THE LORD

PAUL SAYS: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS ALREADY UPON US!!

GOD'S FINAL JUSTICE ON EVIL

DID JESUS COME 'LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT' (1 THESSALONIANS 5:2-3)

JESUS HAS ABANDONED US!!!!

I NEVER SAID THAT!

REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU...

THE WORLD WILL KEEP PRODUCE BUILERS AND REBELS & CONT. THEY'LL ACT AGAIN GOD.

THE REBEL

WILL USE VIOLENCE & HATE IN GOD'S WORLD...

NOT NOT FOREVER

JESUS WILL CONFRONT THE REBEL

A DELIVER HIS PEOPLE

THE POINT

- IS NOT TO FUEL APOCALYPTIC SPECULATION
- IS TO COMFORT THE THESSALONIANS & RECALL JESUS' TEACHINGS (LIFE MARK 1:3)

THE EVENTS LEADING TO JESUS' RETURN WILL BE OBVIOUS! YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SCARED.

PHUA!

2-10-17

THAT THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

3 CHALLENGE TO THE "IDLE"

NOT LAZY, BUT IRRESPONSIBLE & REFUSING TO WORK

(SEE 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13)

POSSIBLE:

JESUS COULD RETURN AT ANY MOMENT!

MORE LIKELY:

ROMAN PATRONAGE

CLIENTS (THEY PAY THE TAXES)

PATRON (THEY GET THE TAXES)

PATRON MEANS PROTECTION

SOME OF YOU ARE LEADING A DISORDERED LIFE, NOT WORKING, BUT MEDDLING IN THE BUSINESS OF OTHERS.

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

CHERISHING JESUS' SELF-GIVING LOVE

WORKING FOR HIMSELF TO SERVE OTHERS FREE OF CHARGE

THE IDEAL:

WORKING HARD SO THEIR LIVES CAN BENEFIT OTHERS

5-10-10

THAT THE LORD OF PEACE GRANT YOU PEACE



2 THESSALONIANS BOOK OVERVIEW CAUTIONARY HISTORY LESSON (REVIEW!)

- There have been some *DUMB* debates over the years
- Are bad times the end of the world?
- Does “like a thief in the night” mean we could miss it?
- Does Paul explain every event in order to combat error?

Paul on speculative doctrines:

destroy (2Co. 10:5), ***avoid*** (Tit 3:9), ***reject*** (2Ti 2:23),
and instruct specific people not to teach (1Ti 1:3-4)

2 THESSALONIANS BOOK OVERVIEW: TEXT & CRITICAL EXAMINATION

- The chapter divisions are widely accepted
- Modern critics have questioned Paul's authorship but
 - Ironically, considering the content;
 - This relies on speculative interpretive assumptions; and
 - This flies in the face of internal and external validation

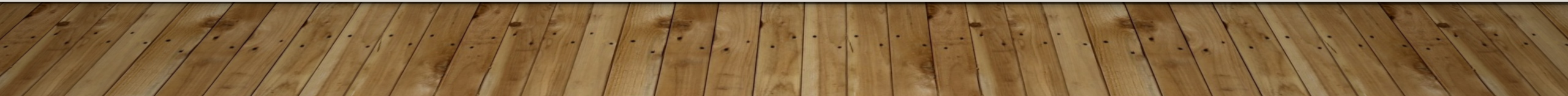




THE HORRORS PERSIST
BUT SO DO I

2 THESSALONIANS 1

FROM US TO YOU, AND WHAT YOUR SUFFERING MEANS



1:1-2 FROM **US** (A DEFINITION)

- 1:1a — Some think all three were co-authors. Maybe!
 - But important it's from them.
 - 2:2 there are false letters going around; this isn't one
 - 3:17 “this is how I write”
- 1:1b-2 — Benediction: dignity of **belonging**, grace


1:3-5 TO **YOU** (A DEFINITION)

- 1:3 — Paul **defines** them affirmatively, repeatedly:
 - Thanks given **for you** (Pauline thanks = alert/accurate)
 - “brothers and sisters” — **you're family**
 - Evidence: **your faith** is increasing, **your love** grows
- 1:4 — **We say of you**, proudly among the churches:
 - You **persevere!** You're **faithful!** You **endure!**

1:3-5 TO YOU

VERSE 5 (IS AMAZING IF YOU KNOW!)

- vv3-4 are “a plain indication”
- “of God's righteous judgment” i.e. not speculative
- “that you” ...yes you, beleaguered Thessalonians!
- “will be” ...in a conclusion that is not now...
- “considered worthy” ...you didn't miss it!
- “of the kingdom of God, for which [you're] suffering”



REMEMBER,
IT IS BETTER
TO SUFFER
FOR DOING
GOOD,
IF THAT IS
WHAT GOD
WANTS, THAN
TO SUFFER FOR
DOING WRONG!

1 PETER 3:17 NLT

1:5-7A — WHAT YOUR SUFFERING MEANS

- 1:5 — Suffering for the kingdom = **worthy of it**
- 1:6 — God will repay those who afflict you
 - Should we relish this? It doesn't say that.
 - That's not the purpose of this verse.
- 1:7a — God will give relief to you,
afflicted along with us. (*Inclusive identity!*)

1:7B-10 WHEN? THEN!

- 1:7b “[God will] give relief to you ...**when**” (*future*)
- Purpose of this verse: **you won't miss it! It's for you!**
- Does he say when? Does he clarify much about when?
- He says **what will happen then:**

1:7B-10 WHEN? THEN!

- 1:7 relief to the afflicted when Jesus “**will be** revealed
- from heaven, with His mighty angels in flaming fire”
- 1: 8-9 Retribution
 - those don't know God & who don't obey the gospel
 - destruction that is somehow eternal
 - Separation from God's presence and power

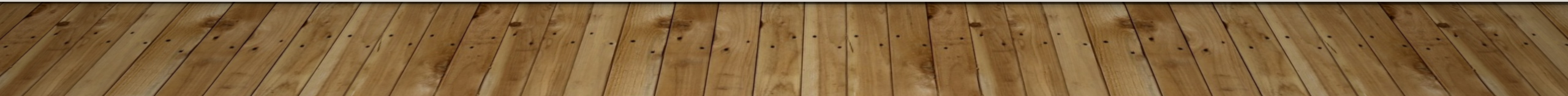
1:7B-10 WHEN? THEN!

- 1:10 — when? “when He comes
- to be glorified among His saints [(when?)] on that day”
- and to be marveled at
 - By believers
 - Because **our testimony to you was believed**
 - Subtext *you're so important to the day that is coming!*

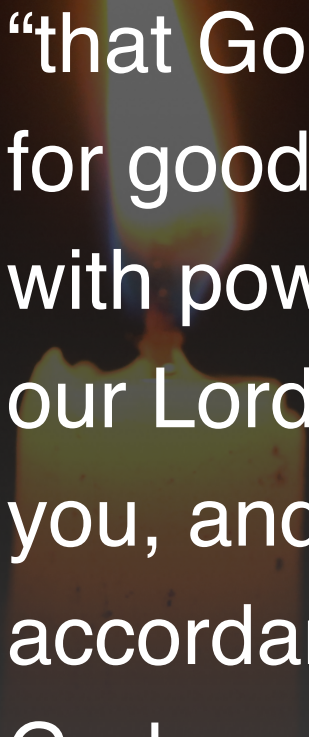
1:11-12 WOULD WE BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

- Praying for you always
- A worthiness is yet available
- You have a calling

“that God will ... fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”



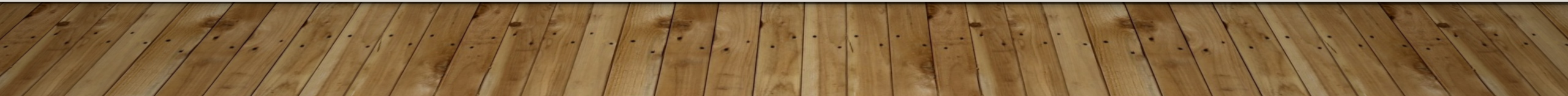
2 THESS. 1:11B-12



“that God will ... fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 THESSALONIANS 2

THE LAWLESS DELUDED AND YOU BROTHERS AND SISTERS: CONTRASTED



2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-3B

WHY WE SAY THIS

- 2:1 — again “brothers and sisters” “now we ask you”
- 2:2a — “not [to] be quickly shaken ...or be disturbed”
- 2:2b-3
 - by any spirit, message, or fake letter
 - saying the Day of the Lord has come
 - this would be deception

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3B-4

- Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord to come:
 - “the apostasy”
 - “the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself” as God

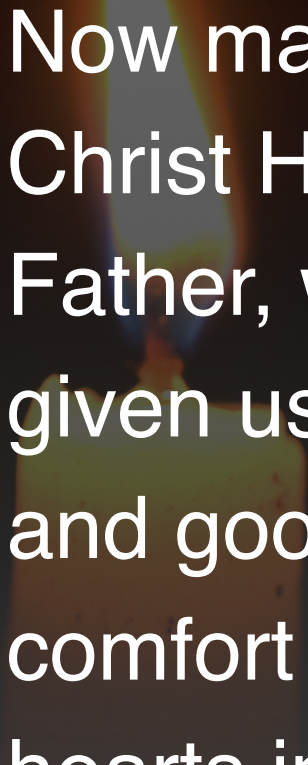
2 THESSALONIANS 2:6-12

- 2:6 - Paul had told them what restrained TMoL
- 2:7 - The mystery is now, “He” restrains TMoL
- 2:7b - “He” will be removed
- 2:8-10a – TMoL is associated with Satan, God will end him “with the breath of his mouth”
- 2:10b-12 – God will punish truth rejection w/ delusion

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

- 2:13 – we give thanks for you, family
 - God chose you from the beginning
 - For salvation through sanctification by the Spirit, faith
 - In the truth (opposite of delusion)
- 2:14 – you are called, for glory with Jesus
- 2:15 – so family stand firm, hold; 16-17 benediction

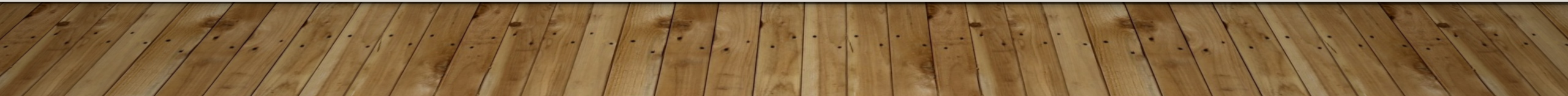
2 THESS. 2:16-17



Now may our Lord Jesus
Christ Himself and God our
Father, who has loved us and
given us eternal comfort
and good hope by grace,
comfort and strengthen your
hearts in every good work and
word.

2 THESSALONIANS 3

HOUSEKEEPING, BECAUSE YOU'RE FAMILY



2 THESSALONIANS 3

- 3:1-2 — pray for us, family! We need it!
- 3:3-4 — Why? Because God is faithful, your strength and protection, and we're confident in your obedience.
- 3:6-7 — someone's being unruly, undisciplined. How?
- 3:8-11 — freeloader busybodies!

2 THESSALONIANS 3

PROBLEM: SOLUTION

- 3:12-15
 - exhort them and don't tire of doing good
 - note them, then disassociate, for shame
 - then admonish like family NOT as an enemy
- 3:16 (benediction, peace in circumstance) 3:17 it's me!
- 3:18 (more benediction, grace of Lord Jesus)

DON'T BE DECEIVED ABOUT THE TIMES.

THE END TIMES AREN'T FOR SPECULATION

THE END TIMES ARE NOT FOR DESPAIR OR PANIC

THE END TIMES ARE FOR OUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR SUFFERING FOR HIM

IF YOU'RE NOT PULLING YOUR WEIGHT OR SUFFERING FOR GOD, SHAME!

YOU'RE FAMILY! ACT LIKE IT!

