## TOUGH TIMES, A TOUGHER FAITH The II Thessalonians Series #3

September 7th, 2025

**TEXT:** II Thessalonians1:5-12

**CONSIDER THIS:** Paul was a great teacher, and the Thessalonia Christians were great students. From the very beginning Paul had explained God's Word and had taught them how to think and act biblically. The result was a tough faith that prevailed over tough times. Christian, God wants your faith today to be just as tough. His grace is growing you and His power and love will sustain you, but you have a part to play. God is a fulltime teacher. Be a full-time student.

**KEY:** Most of the New Testament had not been written when Paul started the Thessalonian church. Much of his teaching was drawn from the Old Testament (Acts 17:1-4: II Timothy 3:14-17). Paul wrote I and II Thessalonians largely as a reminder and to correct their confusion about the end times.

## I. SEE CORRECTLY WHO GOD IS



- A) He is a promise maker and promise keeper (Joshua 1:3-5, 9; Hebrews 13:5)
- B) He loves His people as a compassionate Father (Psalm 103:13-14; I Thessalonians 1:4-5)
- C) He forgives sin (Psalm 130:1-4, 7)
- D) **GOD IS IN CONTROL** (II Thessalonians 1:5). Christian, every difficult thing He permits to come into your life is consistent with A, B, and C



Remember who God is

## II. SEE CORRECTLY WHAT HE IS DOING

- A) God seeks to grow and build the faith of His people (II Thessalonians 1:3-4, 10-12)
- B) God allows tough times to deepen the miraculous union of Jesus Christ with His people (II Thessalonians 1:5; Hebrews 2:8b-11; Philippians 3:8-10)
- C) The deeper the connection with Jesus, the greater the joy (I Thessalonians 1:6)



Remember why God permits hardship

## III. SEE CORRECTLY THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME

**KEY:** The second coming of Christ is a major theme in both Thessalonian letters. But whenever we read these letters to learn about the end times, we must remember they were written to show us how to joyfully endure hard times!

- A) When Christ returns in glory, that glory is magnified because of the suffering He endured the first time (Philippians 2:5-11 and Isaiah 45:20-25)
- B) One of the things that will most glorify the Lord at His coming is the faith of His people who endured their own suffering by the grace of God (II Thessalonians 1:5-12; I Peter 5:6-11)



Christian, to live a life that glorifies God is the greatest achievement possible in a lifetime (Matthew 5:14-16), and every hardship you face is an opportunity to glorify the Lord.

C) The glory that is so rightfully His will be shared with us, for we are in union with Him (II Thessalonians 1:9-12; Colossians 3:1-4; I John 3:1-3)

**NEXT STUDY:** Now concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him... (II Thessalonians 2:1)