

Lessons from the Church at

THESSALONICA



Digital Bulletin

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10 | A Church to Brag About | 1.11.26

Big Idea: Biblical Christianity is a thinking religion. Believers are to think clearly, feel deeply, and respond obediently when it comes to GOD. We have Scripture to show us what this looks like. It is a gift to have 1st and 2nd Thessalonians to direct and protect us in the numerous decisions we face on a weekly basis. Re: **1 Thessalonians 5:21**

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22 Do not despise prophecies. ²¹**Test** all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

- A believer should not quickly dismiss or accept what they hear.
- Culture and Satan tempt us to **feel** our way into decision-making, bypassing the mind.
- The more we "know" about God, the more we understand His commandments are life-enhancing and life-protecting.

Re: **1 Timothy 4:8-9**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-25 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. ²⁵Brethren, pray for us.

- This passage is about GOD's faithfulness to mold us into the image of Christ in preparation for our meeting with Christ!

Re: **Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13**

1 Thessalonians 5:26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

- The keyword isn't kiss – the keyword is "**holy**," a sign of genuine concern for fellow believers. Our greetings of a hug, handshake, or a smile shouldn't be underestimated in how they can encourage others! See gotquestions.org

1 Thessalonians 5:27-28 charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

- We must embrace that GOD gave us a copy of His Word to study and **apply!**
- **God's saving grace** rescues us from the penalty of our sin
- **God's serving grace** enables us with the desire and ability to serve. **Re: 2 Corinthians 8**
- **God's sustaining grace** is with us in our suffering, trials, and all the way until our last breath. Re: **Hebrews 4:14-16**

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians **in** God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Affirmation: **v1-2** you are "in" GOD our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Affirmation to Commendation: **v3-5**

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5 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;

- The commanding words begin with **maturing faith** and **mutual love**.
- **Faith** is to obey GOD regardless of feelings, circumstances, or consequences.
- Love for one another is evidence of love for GOD! Re: **1 John 4:7-11**

3. Commendation to Condemnation: **v6-10**

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 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.

- It's a fatal error to confuse **delayed** judgment with denied judgment. Re: **Galatians 6:7**
- Wisdom is to see life the way GOD planned for us to see it.

Romans 2:4-5 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

- Repentance means to change one's mind; to think about GOD in a Biblical way.
- Repentance results in restored fellowship with GOD and brings numerous life-enhancing benefits. Re: **1 John 1:2-1**

Paul explained God's judgment in two ways: Re: **2 Thessalonians 1:9**

1. **Everlasting** destruction
2. **Eternal** separation from the **glory** of Christ

Philippians 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even **weeping** that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

The tension passages such as **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** create is normal and is designed to lead us to be careful students of what lies ahead for believers and non-believers. However, it also creates a temptation to embrace views such as **universalism** and **annihilationism**, both of which are gaining popularity in evangelical churches. These will be discussed next Lord's Day.

- **HW: Review the Study Guide, and Prayerfully read 2 Thessalonians 1**