

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 ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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> *2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians is written to deal more explicitly with issues that Paul addressed in the first letter. Those issues included the second coming of Christ, the reality of persecution, and how to leave behind pagan rituals and immorality in pursuit of the holiness and grace of Jesus ... in other words, how to live a life please to God while anticipating the return of our Savior and Lord.*

> *2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians will begin with expressions from Paul given them assurance of salvation, and also promising them that God will someday vindicate them and His name as He will become the Avenger of those who have rejected His Son and rejected the follower of Jesus, and have rejected the church, and have rejected the Word, and have rejected the Gospel. Vengeance will come and Victory will be theirs. Their suffering is not in vain.*

**Sermon Title:**

*“What Do We Leave Behind, and What Do We Gain When We Become a True Follower of Jesus Christ?”*

**I. Evidence of God’s Presence:** How do you know when God is in a church?

- a. **Faith** is Growing Abundantly
- b. **Love** of Every One for On Another is Increasing
- c. A church worth boasting in
- d. Can we see evidence of God’s Presence Among us?
- e. Have you ever been in a church when the evidence of His presence was not there? How do you keep a local church from drifting into that?

**II. Evidence of God’s Righteous Judgment:**

**a. Persecution is not a sign of God’s absence, but a sign of God’s presence**

> One could go so far as to say that if there is no persecution of any kind, the church and the Christian may not be truly following Jesus.

> Philippians 1:27, 28

> G.L. Green notes that “so intimate is the relationship between the kingdom of God and the suffering of the people of God that Paul included the teaching that “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God”(Acts 14:22).”

**b. God is the Avenger**

> **Verse 6** “since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you”

**III. What Do We Leave Behind & And What Do We Gain:  
When We Become A Follower Of Jesus**

- A. We leave behind: some aspects of ease and comfort  
We gain: endurance produced from some suffering  
**Yes, but also check this out:**
- B. We leave behind: hopelessness and despair  
We gain: hope and assurance
- C. We leave behind: the coming J \_\_\_\_\_  
We gain: the coming K \_\_\_\_\_
- D. We leave behind: Unbelief *in* & disobedience to the G \_\_\_\_\_  
We gain: Full A \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from trusting and obeying
- E. We leave behind: Eternal D \_\_\_\_\_  
We gain: Eternal L \_\_\_\_\_
- F. We leave behind: The Trauma of H \_\_\_\_\_  
We gain: The Triumph of H \_\_\_\_\_
- G. We leave behind: A place of O \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_  
We gain: A place of I \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_
- H. We leave behind: Eternal A \_\_\_\_\_ from God  
We gain: Eternal P \_\_\_\_\_ with God
- I. We leave behind: A life of meaninglessness, and short-term satisfactions  
We gain: A destiny and an inheritance in Christ who is our life
- J. We leave behind: The mud puddle of monotony  
We gain: The seashore of the Marvelous and the Majestic

How do we get there? (v.10) How do we get others there? (v.11)

> A message from the puritans: "the gift of tears"

> A moment with Craig Johnson

> Can we be a church without tears?

> Psalm 126:5 – "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."



*A Sermon Series on Paul's Letters  
To The Believers in Thessalonica  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians)*

**Sunday, February 14, 2016**

**Overall Theme of Thessalonians:**  
*From The Arrival Of The Gospel  
To The Anticipation Of Glory:  
'Living in the In-Between'*

**TODAY'S MESSAGE:**

***"What Do We Leave Behind, and What Do We Gain  
When We Become a True Follower of Jesus Christ"  
(2 Thessalonians Chapter 1)***

*Pastor Mark Tankersley*