

2 Thessalonians

God's Final Judgment and Glory (2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Read: God's Final Judgment and Glory (1:3-12)

Greeting (1:1-2)

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.

God's Final Judgment and Glory (1:3-12)

3 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; 6 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.

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Explain: God's Final Judgment and Glory (1:3-12)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

Paul begins the meat of his letter and starts with encouragement. And, while it may appear this is a treatise on the end times, he's actually encouraging the listeners.

What do the words mean?

3 We are bound [present active indicative] **to thank** [*eu***charis***teo*; present active infinitive; be grateful, express gratitude, say grace at a meal, give thanks] **God always for you, brethren, as it is** [present active indicative] **fitting** [deserving, comparable or suitable, reward, meet, worthy], **because your faith** [*pistis*] **grows exceedingly** [present active indicative], **and the love** [*agape*] **of every one of you all abounds** [present active indicative; cf. **1 Thessalonians 3:12** & see extra credit] **toward each other** [one another], **4 so that we ourselves boast** [present middle infinitive; boast, glory, joy, rejoice] **of you among the churches** [*ekklesia*; same word used in **1:2** (except here it is plural and isn't bounded to Thessalonica)] **of God for your patience** [cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy, enduring, patience, patient continuance, waiting] **and faith** [*pistis*] **in all your** [plural] **persecutions and tribulations** [pressure, afflicted, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble] **that you endure** [present middle indicative; to hold **oneself** up against, put up with, bear with, endure, forbear, suffer], **5 which is manifest evidence** [indication, manifest token] **of the righteous** [*dikaios*; equitable, innocent, holy, just, meet, righteous] **judgment** [decision, tribunal, justice, accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment] **of God, that you may be counted worthy** [aorist passive infinitive; deem entirely deserving, account worthy] **of the kingdom** [royalty, rule, realm, kingdom] **of God, for which you also suffer** [present active indicative; **feel**, passion, suffer, vex; there is real emotional pain here; *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians, Morris (1991), pages 196-197: Suffering is often the means of working out God's eternal purpose. . . . They must live out their lives and develop their Christian character in a world dominated by non-Christian ideas. Their faith is accordingly not some fragile thing, to be kept in a kind of spiritual cotton wool, insulated from all shocks. It is robust. It is to be manifested in the fires of trouble and in the furnace of affliction. Furthermore, not only is it to be manifested there, but, in part at any rate, it is to be fashioned in such places. The very troubles and afflictions that the world heaps on believers become, under God, the means of making those believers what they ought to be. When we have come to regard suffering in this light, it is not to be thought of as evidence that God has forsaken his people, but as evidence that God is with them.*]; **6 since it is a righteous thing** [*dikaios*; equitable, innocent, holy, just, meet, righteous; same word used in **1:5**] **with God to repay** [second aorist active infinitive; to requite good or evil,

recompense, render, repay] **with tribulation** [pressure, afflicted, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble; same word used in **1:4**] **those who trouble** [present active participle; crowd, afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble] **you, 7 and to give you who are troubled** [present passive participle; crowd, afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble; same word used in **1:6**] **rest** [relaxation, relief, eased, liberty, rest] **with us** [suffering is not new to Paul and his compatriots—he speaks from experience here] **when the Lord Jesus is revealed** [*apokalypsis*; disclosure, appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation] **from heaven** [the sky, heaven, air] **with His mighty** [*dynamis*; force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, meaning, might, miracle, power, strength, violence, mighty work] **angels** [messengers, angel], **8 in flaming** [blaze, flaming] **fire** [*pyr*; fiery, fire; it almost sounds like Jesus is wearing fire here] **taking** [present active participle] **vengeance** [vindication, retribution, re-venge-ance, punishment] **on those who do not know** [**perfect** active participle; be aware, behold, consider, have knowledge, look on, perceive, see, be sure, tell, understand, wish] **God, and on those who do not obey** [present active participle; to hear under (as a subordinate), listen attentively, to heed or conform to a command or authority, hearken, be obedient to, obey; cf. **Isaiah 66:4, 15**; **Who is Paul claiming Jesus to be? God**. Don't miss the fleshing out of the Old Testament prophecy in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.] **the gospel** [*euaggelion*; good message, gospel] **of our Lord Jesus Christ** [I'm having flashbacks to **Romans 1**]. **9 These shall be punished** [justice (the principle, a decision, or its execution), judgment, punish, vengeance] **with everlasting** [perpetual, eternal, for ever, everlasting] **destruction** [death, punishment, destruction] **from the presence** [front, countenance, aspect, appearance, surface, face] **of the Lord** [**Because who could stand face-to-face with God? No one**] **and from the glory** [glory, dignity, honor, praise, worship] **of His power** [force, forcefulness, ability, might, power, strength; cf. **Isaiah 2:10**], **10 when He comes** [second aorist active subjunctive; comes, appears, brings, enters], **in that Day, to be glorified** [aorist passive infinitive; to glorify] **in His saints** [*hagios*; sacred, holy, saint; cf. **Psalm 89:7**] **and to be admired** [aorist passive infinitive; to wonder, to admire, have in admiration, **marvel**, wonder] **among all those who believe** [*pisteuo*; present active participle; to have faith, credit, to entrust, believe, commit, put in trust with], **because our testimony** [*martyrion*; evidence given, testified, testimony, witness] **among you was believed** [*pisteuo*; aorist passive indicative; same word used earlier in **1:10**].

11 Therefore we also pray [present middle/passive indicative; pray, supplicate, worship] **always for you that our God would count you worthy** [aorist active subjunctive; deem entitled or fit, desire, think good, count worthy] **of this calling** [invitation, calling], **and fulfill** [*pleroo*; aorist active subjunctive; make replete, **cram**

a net, level up a hollow, furnish, satisfy, execute, finish, verify, accomplish, complete, end, expire, fill up, fulfil, be full, make full, fully preach, perfect, supply] **all the good pleasure** [satisfaction, delight, kindness, wish, purpose, desire, good pleasure] **of His goodness** [goodness, virtue, beneficence] **and the work** [*ergon*; work, toil, deed, doing, labor] **of faith** [*pistis*; *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*, Morris (1991), page 209: Faith is always busy. A truth faith will clothe itself in works.] **with power** [*dynamis*; same word used in 1:7], **12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified** [aorist passive subjunctive; to glorify; same word used in 1:10; cf. *Isaiah 66:5*] **in you, and you in Him, according to the grace** [*charis*; graciousness, acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, gracious, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks] **of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.** [*The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians*, Fee (2009), page 269: In the midst of the Thessalonian believers' pain and suffering, Paul's prayer for them focuses ultimately on God and his glory. Yet God's glory will be manifest as he fulfills in his people the desire of this prayer. And one should never lose sight of the fact that God's glory is intimately tied to Christ's being glorified in and among his people.]

Are there any repeated words?

You/your (16), **God** (8), Lord (5), Jesus (4), Christ (3), faith (3), glorified/glory (3), always (2), good/goodness (2), power (2), righteous (2), tribulation(s) (2), worthy (2)

Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is due thanks (both for what He does directly by Himself and indirectly through others)
2. Pressure is coming
3. God is just
4. Christ's return is a comfort
5. God desires pleasure in us in Christ

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Thank **God** for believers in their **presence**
2. Endure (**together** is better)
3. **Trust** His judgment
4. Do not **fear Revelation**
5. Pray for **fulfilling** of God's pleasure in us (through His power as this is not a works-powered-by-us-salvation, it is a works-powered-by-the-Spirit-salvation)

Next week: The Great Apostasy (2:1-12)

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times in multiple ways) (**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**)
3. Talk to someone about the text ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool) or in person)
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member

Extra Credit

Read **1 Thessalonians** and look for places where Paul's first message got through and places where his first message didn't get through (cf. **1 Thessalonians 3:12** with **2 Thessalonians 1:3**)

Quotes & Observations

Darla Skinner:

**Our God is a lion
The lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles. . . .**

I love it when we sing theologically correct lyrics . . . **6 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. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8***

By nature I am not the most merciful person, so I love it when the Bible reassures me that Jesus will take care of all the justice that will ever be needed. I do not need to worry that some injustice will go unnoticed. Jesus will bring justice wholly and completely. This frees me up to be liberal with mercy and grace, knowing He will take care of everything. #jesusisthegoat