

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1

1) GREETINGS V.1-2

- a) The church of the Thessalonians “in” the Father and Jesus
 - i) John 14:20 “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”
 - ii) John 17:21 “that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”
 - iii) Divine and objective union through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and realized in us by faith and reception of him
 - iv) V. 12
- b) Grace and Peace
 - i) Gods riches at Christs expense; Unmerited favour; Giving us what we don’t deserve
 - ii) Peace with God (Rom.5:1); Peace of God (Phil.4:7)
- c) **Question:** *What is your favourite verse that reminds you of the union, grace or peace God has given you?*

2) GROWING FAITH V. 3-5

- a) Faith is not static; it is trust in a Person.
- b) Persevering and enduring trials; not running away from them but trusting God in it
- c) “be counted worthy of the kingdom of God”
 - i) Endurance of trial does not “earn” the worthiness of our salvation, but rather “demonstrates” the worthiness as a result of grace accepted by faith.
- d) **Question:** *What testing thing in your life are you most tempted to run away from rather than trust God with in it?*

3) GODS RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT V.6-10

- a) He will pay back and He will punish
 - i) Who?
 - (1) Those who trouble the church
 - (2) Those who do not know God- refuse to respond to the light they have
 - (3) Those who do not obey the Gospel- refuse to believe and receive unto themselves Jesus Christ who they have heard of.
 - ii) When?
 - (1) At his second coming; the day of the Lord
 - iii) What?
 - (1) Everlasting destruction
 - (2) Why is Hell “eternal” and not temporal?
 - (a) A Christ rejecting unrepentant person is one that will not change and is eternally unrepentant. Even after the full wrath of God has been poured out, they still curse God and refuse to repent.
 - (i) Rev. 9:20 (half the population of earth is gone)
 - (ii) Rev. 16:9 (the fourth bowl judgement of scorching sun)
 - (iii) Rev. 16:11 (the fifth bowl judgement of darkness)
 - (iv) Rev. 16:21 (the seventh and last of God’s judgements of 100lb hailstones)
- b) He will comfort and glorify
 - i) Who?

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- (1) ALL those who have believed in his name; who have believed the apostolic testimony
- ii) When?
 - (1) First at the Rapture
 - (2) Second at His Return to Earth as King
- iii) What?
 - (1) Glorified “in” his people; his people glorified “in” Him v. 10; 12
 - (a) To be “mirrored” in us; reflecting and refracting His splendour in our union with him.

c) Question: Does Hell seem unfair to you? If so why?

4) GOD’S GOOD PURPOSES ACCOMPLISHED V.11-12

- a) Prayed for constantly by the Apostle Paul
- b) “counted worthy of His calling”
 - i) Again good works don’t make one “worthy”, they demonstrate it
 - ii) As in James 2:18-22
 - (1) This “someone” is saying ‘Faith is not the key! What counts is works!’ thus going too far.
 - (2) James did not say works were essential to faith or that faith was unimportant
 - (3) His argument was that works are evidence of faith.
 - (4) Faith is the force behind the deed and finds fulfilment in the deed and action
 - iii) This calling of God is all of grace, so to live up to and in what God has given you is to be counted “worthy”; reckoned by God and demonstrated by us.
- c) God and His power is the source and fulfilment
- d) Thessalonians and us, whose faith (a response to grace) prompts good purposes and acts.
 - i) Phil 2:12-13 “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”
 - ii) We are “in” relationship with God and there is mutual indwelling of prompting and responding, but it is all of God by grace and His power that accomplishing anything of eternal value. Everything else is wood, hay and straw.
- e) *Question: What good purpose or act of faith have you been toying with in your mind? Will you make it a focus on constant prayer asking for God’s wisdom to discern it, grace to motivate and power to fulfil it?*