

INTRO

Review 1 Thessalonians

- a) Run out of Philippi – Persecution from Gentiles
- b) Arrives in Thessalonica
- c) There for short time 3 weeks in synagogue – to the Jews
 - a. short time after that preaching in public setting – to Gentiles
 - b. Noted in first letter that
 - i. many Gentiles discarded their idols
- d) Not a lot of time to teach
- e) Jews stir up persecution – run out of town again
 - a. From Thessalonica goes to Athens
 - i. and then to Corinth
 - b. The **message** in Corinth was probably same in Thessalonica

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”

- a. Just the Gospel – Jesus the Messiah
- b. Not enough time to address how to **function as a church**
 - i. Or answer all their questions
- b) So, **first letter** was to address some of these issues
 - a. And encourage them to remain faithful
 - b. in spite of all the persecution they receiving

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

“Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 1. The **second Epistle** to the Thessalonians was written very soon after the first
 - a. apparent from the fact that
 - a. practically the **same conditions existed** in that church,
 - b. also, Silas and Timothy join Paul in both letters;
 - i. these 3 men not together

- ii. after Paul's ministry in Corinth
- b. We would therefore date this letter
 - a. in the latter part of AD 52
 - b. or the early part of AD 53
- 2. *"Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"*
 - a. Same salutation as in 1st letter to Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 1:3

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing."

- a. obliged to give thanks because his prayer had been answered
 - 1 Thess. 3:12** *"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."*
- b. the Thessalonians were doing
 - a. the things which he prayed they might do

2 Thessalonians 1:4

"Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring."

3. Paul warned them about the persecutions

- a. which had already began in the first letter,
- b. But continued by the time he wrote the 2nd letter

1 Thessalonians 3:4

"In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know."

2 Thessalonians 1:5

"All this is evidence that God's judgment is right"

4. Evidence is measured by **results**

- a. Seeing the changes in people's lives is proof
 - a. that God's way
 - i. is how we were designed to work
- b. That was all the proof I needed**
 - a. Barry Mattox and his family
 - b. Different from all the other families I knew
 - c. Seeing the lives of people I knew dramatically change – Jeff Wells
 - d. People with purpose
 - i. Not wandering through life aimless
 - 1) You live,

- 2) you die,
- 3) and in two generations you're completely forgotten about
- c. No more animosity between people (Jews and Gentiles)
 - a. Loving one another and growing in their love for each other
- d. THE EVIDENCE PAUL IS REFERRING TO:
ARE THE CHANGED LIVES

2 Thessalonians 1:6–7

“God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.”

- a. God isn't blind to what is going on in this world
- b. God believes in justice
- c. He knows that the suffering we endure is only temporary

2 Corinthians 4:16–17

“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

d. God intends to mete out His justice on His timetable

“And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.”

- a. Note that he doesn't say that
 - i. this will happen immediately
 - ii. (as some teach)
- b. It will come when Jesus returns
- c. So, if you don't see relief –
 - i. remember it was never promised
 - ii. in this life
- d. Only promised when Jesus returns
 - i. That is the only promise of justice for our suffering
- e. And **he will payback** to those who persecute you.
 - ii. **Vs. 9** says the payback will be everlasting destruction
 - iii. And shut out from the presence of God

Romans 12:19

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,”

- b. Can you imagine what this scene will look like?
- f. Apostle John at the sight of Jesus in his glory just fell down as though he were dead

Revelation 1:12–18

“I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

- g. When Jesus puts his hand on those who are his – What a relief that will be
 - i. when he says to the saved:

Matthew 11:28–30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

2 Thessalonians 1:8–10

“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.”

- 5. “To those who don’t know God”
 - a. Principally talking about **Gentiles**
 - b. Applying this to modern day:
 - c. There is **no excuse** for people saying **I don’t know God**.

Romans 1:18–20

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

- a. This is God’s answer to the **Atheists**

- 1) No excuses.
- 2) To those who make no attempt to find out

Acts 17:26–27

“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

- b. God made himself so obvious, that man would seek him out
6. To those who “do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus”
- a. **These all believe there is a God**
 - b. Principally Paul is addressing the **Jews here**
 - c. But applying this to modern times:
 - d. **TO THE AGNOSTICS**
 - i. By their choices to violate their consciences
 - 1) By choosing to sin
 - 2) Suppressing their consciences

e. EASTERN MYSTICISM

- i. Numbing themselves to worthless meditations
- ii. Manufactured religious practices
- iii. Worship of idols

Acts 17:22–23

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”

f. CHRISTIAN FAITH-BASED BELIEVERS:

- i. Not obeying what the Bible teaches
- ii. Relying on what the preacher tells you
- iii. Not taking personal responsibility for your belief

Acts 17:11–12

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

James 1:22–25

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and

immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”

7. OUR OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD

- a. is the true – ultimate test as to whether we truly love God
 - a. It’s not our prayer life
 - b. Not our church attendance
 - c. Our contribution
 - d. Our knowledge of the Bible
 - e. Our “Good Works”
 - f. It’s our obedience

1 John 2:3–5

“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him.”

8. *They will be punished with everlasting destruction*

Hebrews 10:30–31

“For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

- a. **Eternal Damnation**
- b. **Destruction of a soul** that was purposed to be eternally with God

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this 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.”

9. Because the return of Jesus will be a **cataclysmic event**

- a. And the consequences will have eternity in the balance for every individual

10. He constantly prays that they will follow through with everything they have been taught

- a. And put their faith in
- b. And **not** give in to the persecution they are receiving
- c. And call it quits with their convictions

11. Jesus warned people about how people will succumb to the pressures of persecution

Mark 4:3–8

“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the

plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.”

Mark 4:13–20

“Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

- a. The major reasons people fall away:
 - a. Persecutions
 - b. Worries of this life
- 12. *“that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.”*
 - a. Not everything we do as Christians is
 - a. Good
 - b. Nor prompted by faith

We can ask God for anything

Matthew 7:9–11

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

- b. God wants to give us good things.
 - a. It requires faith on our part
- c. You want to do something to honor God?
 - a. Ask

2 Thessalonians 1:12

“We pray this 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.”

- a. Paul’s prayer for the church
 - a. When people see their changed lives
 - b. Jesus will shine through

- c. Paul is simply restating
 - i. in his words
 - ii. what Jesus said to his disciples

John 13:34–35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- d. Let us pray that others
 - i. will see the light of Jesus
 - ii. through our lives