

# 2 THESSALONIANS

## 1:1-12 | STUDY GUIDE

### Judgement

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:1**, "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (ESV)

- Same greeting as 1 Thessalonians.
  - This is characteristic of most of Paul's letters. He uses a greeting that is actually a blend of both formal Greek and Jewish practice.
- The rate he transitions from this greeting is significant
  - God the Father, Lord Jesus Christ
- Paul and the early apostles spoke of and interacted with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which is significant because the doctrine of the Trinity will not be fully articulated until the 2nd and 3rd century and into the 4th century.
- Tertullian coined the term "trinity"
- Athanasius defended

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:4**, "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..." (ESV)

- "We boast of you"
  - Parental language in first letter reflected here

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**2 THESSALONIANS 1:5**, "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..." (ESV)

- Their suffering shows their worth
- Once again, encouraging believers to not seek retaliation against those who persecute them.
  - Vengeance is God's, "since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you." (ESV)
  - Paul quotes Deuteronomy 32:35 in multiple letters, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay." (NIV)
    - Romans 12:19
    - Hebrews 10:30

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:9**, "They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might..." (ESV)

- Alongside the grim description of hell fire and eternal torment is the absence of God.

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:10**, "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..." (ESV)

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- Testimony = μαρτύριον
- Revelation 12:11, "And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death." (ESV)
  - Paul uses this word throughout his letters in the same context
  - This word is also featured throughout the Gospels, as well as Acts and the book of James

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Fant, Clyde E, and Mitchell G Reddish, A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey, Jung Unchan, A Tale of Two Churches