

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Occasion: The first letter had intensified their expectation of Jesus' second coming. Paul had stressed the _____ of the Lord's return. In their excitement they misunderstood Paul's meaning. They had interpreted "suddenly" to mean "_____." Paul writes them back to correct this idea.

Purpose: to remind the new, enthusiastic Christians at Thessalonica that the _____ with evil was not over, that it was a mistake to assume that Jesus definitely would return immediately. He writes to tell them to get on with their work and witness.

Central message: This follow-up letter of Paul to the Thessalonians contains his most _____ statement on the end of the world. The central message is that for believers there are still battles to _____, but victory is _____, but don't expect victory too soon!

- I. Paul _____ the believers at Thessalonica for their spiritual growth Vs 1-4
- A. The writer and the recipients Vs 1a
1. Paul wrote this letter while Silas and Timothy were with him
 2. Cf. 3:17
- B. Vs 2-is the same salutation found in his first letter to the Church at Thessalonica
1. "Grace be unto you"-underserved favor and _____ from God
 2. "Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"-a state of mind and heart in which the turmoil of life does not _____ the fellowship with and confidence in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
- C. Paul commends their _____ expression of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ Vs 3-4
1. He is thankful to God for what is happening in their life, since God is the orchestrator of their actions
 2. Paul takes note of their _____ and commends them
 - a. Their faith is growing rapidly-their faith in God was demonstrated by their _____
 - b. The demonstration of their love for the Lord was being shown in their love for their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ
 3. Their _____ had far reaching impact on other believers Vs 4
 - a. Paul shared with other _____ what God was doing at Thessalonica Vs4a
 - b. Their testimony of God's sustaining grace was _____ by the hard times they were going through Vs 4b
- II. Paul _____ the believers about the coming end times Vs 5-10
- A. God keeps perfect _____ of injustices committed against Believers Vs 5-6
1. Their exercise of patience and faith in God during persecution and tribulation was a testimony to the fact that God had changed their _____ and made them new creatures in Christ. Vs 4b-5
 - a. Their suffering came because they were _____ Vs 5b
 - b. God keeps perfect records of those suffering Vs 5a
 2. God will _____ those who have brought about this persecution and tribulation on the believers at Thessalonica Vs 6
- B. Paul _____ the believers concerning "end time events" Vs 7-9
1. First, end time prophecy should bring _____ to the heart of the believer Vs 7a
 - a. "_____ ---Rest"
 - b. "Afflicted---be _____"

2. The Lord Jesus is coming again as a _____ of the unrighteous Vs 7b-9
 - a. He is revealed (_____) from Heaven with His army of mighty (_____) empowered) angels Vs 7
 - b. He is revealed in flaming fire Vs 8a
 1. God's wrath is often described as a _____ of fire devouring
 2. Deut. 32:22-For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains. (ESV)
 3. Ps 97:3-Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. (ESV)
 - c. He is coming in to take _____ upon those who have rejected Him and have persecuted his Brothers and Sisters Vs 8b
 - d. The objects of Christ's vengeance will be _____ Vs 9
 1. Their destruction will be for all _____
 2. They will be _____ from God
 3. They will not _____ His glorious power, only His destructive power
3. The Lord Jesus is coming to be glorified and admired by all those who have _____ Vs 10
 - a. Glorified-to be _____ at
 - b. Admired-held in admiration, _____, and appreciation
 - c. Those doing the glorifying and admiring will be those who have trusted Him as their personal _____
 1. This is a time _____ for the redeemed to admire and worship the Redeemer
 2. While being a time of _____ for the unbelievers, it will be a time of resplendent worship for the believers

- III. Paul _____ the believers to keep their focus on what is important Vs 11-12
- A. He calms them with the _____ that he is praying for them Vs 11a
 - B. He calms them by reminding them that it's all about _____ and what He thinks Vs 11b
 - C. He calms them by reminding them that God has a _____ for each of them Vs 11c
 1. "The good pleasure of His goodness"-the good and pleasing _____ of God fulfilled in the behavior and actions of the believer
 2. "The work of faith with power"-the _____ work of faith in the believer which is a testimony to the mighty power of God
 - D. He calms them by reminding them to stay _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ and practice glorifying and admiring Him now before He comes Vs 12a
 - E. He calms them by reminding them that this is all made possible by the _____ of God Vs 12b