

*Edgemont Bible Church*  
*Pastor Al Osden*  
*2 Thessalonians*

Feb. 26, 2017

I. Introduction to the Second Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians

A. The City of Thessalonica - See Intro to 1 Thessalonians

B. The Founding of the Church - Acts 16:13-40 - See Intro to 1 Thessalonians

C. Purpose

1. A few months had passed since the writing of 1 Thessalonians

2. Though unable to visit them,

a. he had maintained contact - 1 Thess 2:18

b. he was encouraged by their progress - 2 Th 1:3-4

c. still some issues that needed resolution

i. Stand fast in spite of persecution- 2 Th 1

ii. Clearing up confusion on end times - 2 Th 2

iii. Idleness had continued - 2 Th 3

D. Writer - Paul

1. Names himself two times - 1:1; 3:17

a. though naming himself twice, some challenged authorship saying

i. teaching on eschatology contradictory in the two letters

- 1 Th teaches imminent return

- 2 Th teaches signs before His coming

ii. Paul was speaking of two distinct phases of the Lord's return

- 1 Th points out that the rapture will come suddenly and unexpectedly

- 2 Th was written to counter false teaching on the Day of the Lord

-specific events will happen before that Day

-the unveiling of the antichrist does not negate the Day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night

b. others claimed that he never wrote about the man of sin (2 Th 2:3) in his other writings

2. Widely accepted by Early Church Fathers as inspired writing of Paul

3. Writing style consistent with 1 Thessalonians

E. Date and Place of writing

1. Paul's stay in Corinth is correlated to Gallo's term as proconsul - Acts 18:12

2. Place of writing - from Corinth a few months after 1 Thessalonians

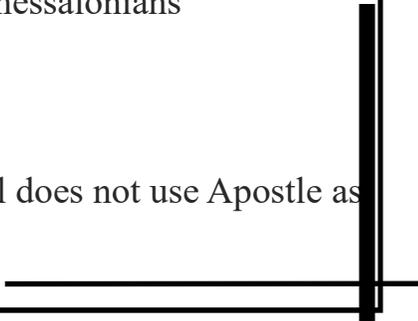
II. A Church to be Proud Of - 1:1-5

A. The Authors and Recipients

1. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

a. 1 & 2 Thessalonians is the only epistles that Paul does not use Apostle as a title, evidently not in question by this Church

b. Silvanus (Silas)



- i. like Paul, a Jew that held Roman citizenship
- ii. like Paul, had a Jewish and Roman name
- iii. Was chosen to bring the decision of the Jerusalem Council to the believers in Antioch - Acts 15:27

c. Timothy

- i. Paul's son in the Faith - 2 Tim 1:2
- ii. Citizen of Lystra - 2 Tim 1:5
- iii. Son of Jewish mother and Gentile father - Acts 16:1
- iv. Met Paul on the second missionary journey and became part of the team - Acts 16:1-3

2. To the church of the Thessalonians

a. Thessalonica

- i. a busy port capitol city of Macedonia
- ii. 250,000 people living on the Egnatian way

c. The church

- i. was founded on the 2nd missionary journey - Act 17:1-9
- ii. Someone reported to Paul things that were going on and questions
  - The Church had been suffering persecution
  - even with the first letter, b/c of false teachers, there was still confusion about the rapture and the Day of the Lord
  - Some, believing the Lord would return very soon had stopped working and were a burden to the church

B. Genuine Conversion

1. in

- a. realm of operation - shows they have eternal life
- b. only here and 1 Th 1:1 does Paul use in God
- c. through salvation, we are in union with God
- d. God our Father - "our" emphasizes that God is the Father of believers
- e. and the Lord Jesus Christ - Gal 2:20

2. Grace to you and peace

a. summarization of the Gospel

- i. God's grace - unmerited favor
- ii. Peace is the result of God's grace

b. from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- i. listed as equals
- ii. Shows the deity of Christ seeing as grace and peace also come from Him

C. Increasing Faith

1. We are bound

- a. **opheilo** - to owe, to be under obligation.
- b. to thank God always
- c. for you, brethren - it was God's grace that made this Church what it was

2. as it is fitting,

a. because your faith grows - for which Paul had prayed - 1 Th 3:10

b. exceedingly - **huperauxano** - to increase above ordinary degree:--grow exceedingly.

i. Persecution destroys false faith - Mt 13:20-21

ii. Real Faith endures and grows - Lk 22:31-32; 1 Pet 1:6-7

iii. Persecution drives real faith to God - 2 Co 12:8; **Ps 119:67,71,75**

iv. Persecution is part of the will of God - 1 Pet 4:19; Jas 1:2-4; Ro 5:3-5

#### D. Growing Love

##### 1. Love

a. Paul commended them for their love - 1 Th 1:3; 4:9-10

b. Paul prayed that their love would abound - 1 Th 3:12

c. Timothy had reported that

i. each one was loving - the love of every one of you

ii. all abounds toward each other, - **pleonazo** - to do, make or be more, increase, to superabound:--abound, abundant, make to increase, have over.

##### 2. Not sentimental or emotional feeling

a. doing what is best for the loved without consideration of the cost to the love-r. - Jo 13:34-35;

b. increasing love and faith are marks of a real redeemed nature - 2 Co 8:7; Gal 5:6; Eph 1:15; 6:23

#### E. Persevering Hope

1. Paul praised the Thessalonians for being strong in Hope - 1 Th 1:3

2. He encouraged them not to be shaken by these afflictions - 1 Th 3:3-5

3. we ourselves - emphatic

a. boast of you among the churches of God

b. for your patience and faith

i. **hupomone** - not resigned stoic acceptance, but cheerful endurance, courageous, enduring of trouble - Ro 3:3; Gal 5:22; Tit 2:10

ii. **Pistis** - faithfulness - that you endure

c. in all your

i. persecutions - hostilities from enemies of the Gospel

ii. and tribulations - suffering resulting from the persecutions

#### F. A Kingdom Attitude

1. The persecution and all the results thereof were proof of a kingdom centered mindset

a. which is manifest evidence

b. **endeigma** - an indication (concretely):--manifest token.

2. of the righteous judgment of God,

a. for which you also suffer;

b. Chastisement is proof of son-ship - Heb 12:6-7,10

3. that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God,

a. through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God - Acts 14:22b

b. never evaluate a Church by the externals - 1 Sam 16:7