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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“*AND TO YOU WHO ARE TROUBLED REST WITH US*”**

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

﻿Apostle Paul wrote this letter was written from Corinth soon after the first letter. This letter is about the second coming of Christ. Paul wrote to correct doctrinal error because many of the Thessalonian Christians were confused. Their misunderstanding about the day of the Lord, the time of God’s judgment preceded by the rapture had caused some of the believers to live slothfully. They reasoned that since Christ’s coming could happen any day, there was no point in working every day and dealing with daily burdens. Many were quitting their jobs and using prophecy as an excuse to ﻿be irresponsible, surviving off of the generosity of others. Paul sought to correct the church’s “stinking” thinking and to explain how they should live responsibly in light of the truth about the day of the Lord. Paul was concerned that the Thessalonians understand right doctrine, but he also wanted them to engage in right living in light of it as part of God’s kingdom people.

***II Thessalonians 1:1 "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"***

﻿***II Thessalonians 1:2 "Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."***

***II Thessalonians 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"***

We see the same three names associated with this letter as we did with the first letter. This is a greeting that Paul uses very often. We see in this greeting Paul is agreeing that these Thessalonians are in Christ. This is not a church that has strayed away. It is a church that is grounded and rooted in the Father and in the Lord Jesus. Paul has no complaint about their faith, or their charity. This is a church that is growing in the knowledge of God. They are more than generous helping with the others needs. Though the Thessalonians were experiencing difficult times, their faith was strong. Trials expand faith, just like exercise develops muscle. This is a reminder that in the midst of suffering, one of the greatest things you can do is serve. Why? Because God’s power flows through his love!

***II Thessalonians 1:4 "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:"***

Paul is using this church at Thessalonica as an example to the other churches of how they should conduct their affairs. He knows the persecutions have been great, they have endured them like good soldiers. They are not only generous in their giving, but they are patient, as well. It seems that Paul can find no fault with them. Paul is simply amazed at their faith and patience under such tribulations and persecutions. As their faith reaches upward, their love ﻿reaches outward. And as a result of the Thessalonians’ growth in faith and love, Paul and his companions boasted about the Thessalonians among God’s churches, about their perseverance and faith in all they were enduring. Other churches were being encouraged by the Thessalonians’ spiritual commitment, patience, and love for one another, in spite of the persecution they were enduring.

***Romans 8:17 KJV***

***And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

You will be counted worthy of God’s kingdom, for which you also are suffering. If you haven’t suffered as a Christian, it’s likely because nobody knows you are one. If this world order knows where you stand, it will resist you. Every believer, in fact, is going to have some kind of affliction. But remember this: When God finally establishes his kingdom, he’s going to reward ﻿those who are worthy. None of us is worthy in and of ourselves, but when we have suffered, we will co-reign with Christ.

***II Thessalonians 1:5 "[Which is] a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:"***

"Manifest" is to make known. “Token” is a representation. It seems they are enduring this suffering for the possibility of being counted worthy before God. Count on it: there’s a payday coming.

***I Peter 2:20 "For what glory [is it], if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer [for it], ye take it patiently, this [is] acceptable with God."***

***II Thessalonians 1:6 "Seeing [it is] a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;"***

Paul assures the church that the Righteousness of God will afflict those who afflict you. If these people remain patient, and in the faith even when they are being persecuted, the people doing the persecuting will be punished by God.

***Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."***

God fights our battles for us. Vengeance is His, not ours. We should be kind to our enemies, as well as our friends.

***II Thessalonians 1:7 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,"***

***II Thessalonians 1:8 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"***

There is a rest for the believers. Look, with me, at what Jesus had to say about this very thing.

***Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."***

***Hebrews 4:9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."***

The rest for the Christian is in Jesus. There will be no sorrow in heaven. These mighty angels that are with Him are the ministering spirits to do His commands. At one point, they are to put in the sickle and reap the earth at His command. The Christians, themselves, will be like the angels in heaven. God is going to take vengeance on those who don’t obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction. God is a consuming fire.

***Hebrews 12:29 "For our God [is] a consuming fire."***

Many times in the Bible, God is associated with fire. John the Baptist said, that he baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Holy God cannot look upon sin, He will burn it up. We all know that the wheat will be gathered into the heavenly barn, and the tares will be burned. Look what Jesus said about this very thing.

***Matthew 13:30 "Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."***

There are only two choices a person can make. Following Jesus brings life eternal, but to reject Jesus brings eternal damnation.

***Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."***

The most frightening doctrine in the Bible is The doctrine of hell. If you don’t know Christ, pay attention: a day of reckoning is coming! Eternal destruction means never-ending pain and regret. But if ﻿today you receive Christ as your deliverer, he will give relief. The Bible gives speaks of both heaven and hell. Those who like to hang out with Satan in life will be away from the Lord’s presence and from his glorious strength after death. There will be no answered prayers in hell. There will be no light and no peace, because God is light, and God is peace.

***II Thessalonians 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"***

We see that the ones to be punished are all who do not accept Jesus as their Saviour. This is the separation of the sheep and the goats in the book of Matthew. The followers of Christ, of course, are his sheep. The really sad thing is, that even some who proclaim Christianity will not be acceptable as we read in the following verse.

***Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"***

***Matthew 7:23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."***

You see, just professing Christianity does not make you a Christian. We are Christians when we become new creatures in Christ. Remember, there are only two choices. It is up to us where we spend all of eternity. We can choose Jesus and spend eternity in heaven with Him. The other choice is to reject Jesus and spend eternity in hell, totally separated from God. Hell is not only a fire, but a terrible darkness. One of the torments of hell is the fact that the lost will not be able to see the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***II Thessalonians 1:10 "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."***

The punishment, spoken of in the previous verses, will happen when the things spoken in verse 10 above, occur. Paul is saying, because his testimony was believed when he preached to them, they would grow in the Lord until He comes. We know that the Lord is glorified in the saints, when they become so full of Him that the world looking on sees Jesus in them. This brings glory and honor to the Father and Jesus. We, Christians, in the day of the Lord will be clothed in white linen washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will have taken on His righteousness. We have been made acceptable in the Father’s sight through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

***II Thessalonians 1:11 "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of [this] calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of [his] goodness, and the work of faith with power:"***

For Christ to be glorified in us, we must grow in him to the extent that we will be a reflection of the Lord Jesus. Many are called, but few are chosen. Paul is not speaking just to the heads of the churches here, but to all who have been called of God to be Christians. Every Christian is a minister for Christ. Paul prays that they will live the salvation they have received. It appears that Paul is trying to convey to them the necessity to walk uprightly before the Lord. The very life we live is a sermon to the world around us. We either draw people closer to God with our walk, or we drive them further away. This prayer of Paul's is speaking of their walk, more than just a one time conversion. The constant faith we have in Him causes us to turn our will over to His will. The power to minister comes from the Holy Spirit within us. Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power after the Holy Ghost had come upon them. Look, with me, at the power He gave them, and what it was to be used for. This is in the Words of Jesus.

***Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."***

***II Thessalonians 1:12 "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."***

This shows great reverence for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. By grace are you saved. Salvation is for whosoever will. God loved us while we were yet in sin. He sent Jesus as our Saviour. He must be made Lord of our life for the things we have been talking about to be. It is Christ in me, the hope of glory. The name of our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified when we are Christian in the true sense of the word. Christians are followers of and believers in the Lord Jesus. We become Christ-like, if we make Him Lord of our lives.

***Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;"***

Life is like a machine, and prayer can recharge a person’s batteries. If you ﻿keep up ongoing communication with the Lord, God will fulfill your every desire to do good and your work produced by faith. Paul knew that if the Thessalonian church was recharged by prayer, it would have an even more powerful witness: The name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus. If you go through a particularly difficult season and choose to lean on the Lord in prayer, somebody may look at you and ask, “How can you smile at a time like this? How are you standing when you ought to be stooping? How ﻿are you still worshiping when you ought to be complaining?” The answer will be that “those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.”

***Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where was this letter probably written from?
2. Who was the penman of the this letter?
3. What mistaken idea did these people in the church of Thessalonica have?
4. What is this letter all about?
5. What complimentary thing does Paul say to them in the first verse? 6. Quote verse 2.
7. What two good things did Paul have to say about them in verse 3?

8. What, possibly, could be wrong with what they are doing?
9. What church did Paul use as an example for the other churches?

10. Paul says they are counted worthy for \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

11. What does "manifest" mean?
12. Quote Romans chapter 8 verse 17.
13. Who will God bring tribulation on?
14. Quote Romans chapter 12 verse 20.
15. Who does verse 7 say will be with Jesus at His return?
16. Quote Hebrews chapter 4 verse 9.
17. Who will be like the angels?
18. Who does He take vengeance on?
19. Quote Hebrews chapter 12 verse 29.
20. Who is cast into the fire?
21. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verses 22 and 23.
22. Besides the torment of the fire, what terrible thing occurs?
23. Jesus will be glorified in whom?
24. What will the Christians be clothed in at that day?
25. We should admire Jesus for what He did for us, but we should admire Him more for what?
26. Paul prayed that God would count them worthy of their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

27. Every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a minister for Christ.
28. What is Paul trying to convey to them?
29. Where does the power to minister come from?
30. Quote Philippians chapter 2 verse 10.