

2 THESSALONIANS

Thessalonians commended on their faith (1:1-12)

1 From Paul, Silas and Timothy:
To the church of the Thessalonians who are in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²May grace and peace be imparted to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers. This is fitting for your faith is growing stronger and your love for each other continues to increase. ⁴We are able to boast about you in God's churches because of your faith and the perseverance you show in the face of the persecutions and afflictions you have to endure. ⁵This shows that God is just in His judgment of you, considering you worthy of His Kingdom for which you suffer.

⁶⁻⁷God is right to repay with affliction those who afflict you; but He gives relief to all who are afflicted, both to you and ourselves. This will take place when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in flames of fire, together with His powerful angels. ⁸Then full vengeance will be given to those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹⁻¹⁰They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, being excluded from the Lord's presence and from the glory of His might when He comes to be glorified in His saints, His holy people. All who have believed will be filled with awe and wonder of Him, because they believed our testimony of what will happen on that Day.

¹¹We always pray for you along these lines, that our God will consider you worthy of His calling; that by His power He may fulfil every one of your good intentions and the actions you undertake in faith. ¹²Then the Name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you and you in Him, because of the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ that is at work among you.

The coming of the lawless one (2:1-12)

2 We ask you, brothers, not to be disturbed or upset about what will happen when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again, or how

we will be gathered up to meet Him. ²Reject any spirit, teaching or letter that is supposed to come from us suggesting that the Day of the Lord has come already. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. First the rebellion has to take place, when the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one who is destined for destruction. ⁴He opposes the truth and exalts himself above everything associated with God. He presumes to sit in God's holy sanctuary, wants to be worshipped and even declares himself to be God.

⁵Surely you remember that I told you about this while I was still with you! ⁶And now you know what is restraining him so that he will not be revealed until the right time. ⁷This lawlessness is already working secretly and the power that restrains it will continue to do so until it is time for that restraint to be removed. ⁸Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of His mouth, bringing him to nothing by the glory of His coming.

⁹The coming of the lawless one will be the work of Satan and will be accompanied by all kinds of false miracles, signs and wonders. ¹⁰His wickedness will deceive those who are perishing because they have refused to love the truth and so have not received salvation.

¹¹⁻¹²So God sends on them a powerful delusion causing them to believe a lie, so that all may be condemned who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in what is evil.

Stand firm and hold onto the truth (2:13-17)

¹³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, by the work of the Spirit who makes you holy and through faith in the truth. ¹⁴To this salvation He called you through our gospel, so that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold onto what we taught you, either by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷May the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave us through His grace eternal strength and good hope, now strengthen your hearts and establish you in every good deed and word.

Warning against idleness (3:1-18)

3 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Lord's Word may spread rapidly and be honoured by others, as it has been with you, ²so that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men. For not all are

people of faith. ³However, the Lord is faithful and He will strengthen you and keep you from evil.

⁴The Lord causes us to feel confident about you, because you obey and continue to do what we tell you. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience.

⁶Now, brothers, we charge you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to have nothing to do with any brother who lives in idleness, and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you need to follow our example, because we were never idle while among you. ⁸Nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying! Rather, we worked hard by day and night so as not to be a burden to you. ⁹We did this to give you a good example, not because we had no right to such help. ¹⁰For even when we were with you we gave you this order: "If anyone does not want to work, do not let him eat!" ¹¹We hear that some of you are living in idleness. Instead of being busy, they are busybodies! ¹²We command such people and urge them in the Lord Jesus Christ to start earning their own living, so that they will have bread to eat.

¹³And you, brothers, do not grow tired of doing good. ¹⁴If anyone refuses to obey what we say in this letter, note that person and do not associate with him, so that he may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Do not regard him as your enemy, but correct him as a brother.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all.

¹⁷I, Paul, am writing this greeting in my own hand, as you can tell from my handwriting.

¹⁸May the Lord Jesus Christ impart His grace to you all.

