

2 Thessalonians 1 New American Standard Bible

Giving Thanks for Faith and Perseverance

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers *and sisters*, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is increasing abundantly, and the love of each and every one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater. ⁴ As a result, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. ⁵ *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering. ⁶ For after all it is *only* right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted, *along* with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes to be glorified among His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—because our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls observations and insights

1. Paul writes his second letter to this church, sending a letter back then was a costly process but such as it is, Paul is keen to let this church know more of God's kingdom purpose.
2. 'In God our Father' is to be connected and that connection is via being in Jesus Christ. Every other attempt at connecting to God will hit a brick wall, because the only way we can come to God is when we are Holy and that is

something we can't do for ourselves, but it is what God has done for us, through Jesus crucifixion by grace.

3. Peace is what comes when we are no longer striving.
4. To be acceptable to God with the best we have happens when we have freely received the best He gave – Jesus.
5. When we give thanks to God for one another we renew our affection for one another. It is very hard to stay an enemy of someone you have asked God to bless.
6. It is right and somewhat easy to thank God for those who do good and make it easy for everybody, but what about those who don't deserve your kindness and mercy?
7. This church in Thessalonica was excelling in their walk with the Lord, but there are many Christians that have not done so well.
8. Love begets love as does anger beget anger and hatred beget hatred.
9. We reproduce around us what we are ourselves.
10. Are you surrounded by fear and suspicion, worry and anxiety? Take a look at what is going on inside yourself - see if you can see that kind of behaviour!
11. There is a right way to be proud of others, it is when they excel in a good attribute or character.
12. But pride is what made Lucifer think of himself more than he should have – pride comes before a fall.
13. Paul is proud of this church for living right and doing right even though they have been through great persecutions and sufferings.
14. Their success in their trials reveals they are walking with the grace of God in their lives and not depending on themselves to overcome.
15. To be worthy of the Kingdom of God is to reflect a dependency of trusting God's Holy Spirit to equip you to overcome all evil and temptation, just like Jesus Christ did in the desert.
16. When this dispensation of grace comes to an end and we move into a dispensation of judgement, God will call to account all who have rejected His free gift of salvation and punish all who stood in the way of this message being proclaimed.
17. At the coming of Jesus again, when all things about God are disclosed, God will humble all offenders of the cross and bring relief to all our sufferings.
18. The world of angels exists alongside our natural world, but at the end of the age they will appear in our natural world to execute God's retribution and judgement.
19. All who reject the gift of God will pay the penalty of eternal separation from God's presence, never to be given this opportunity again.
20. Sent into damnation with devils and demons and all who disdain the free gift of salvation.

21. If we are in Him, as this church was, when He comes, as He is glorified we will be glorified in Him.
22. We will be welcome, acceptable children, redeemed by the blood of the lamb to share eternity in God's presence.
23. Thessalonians because you believed the Word we brought you, not only did you benefit by believing while on earth, but you will be honoured for believing, in all eternity.
24. To be considered worthy is to take full advantage of the opportunity we have been given. What have you done with the gift of forgiveness and your life in Jesus Christ?
25. God's intention for all who come to Him, is to use them in His world, to express the goodness of God to all and to reveal His love for them through you.
26. To demonstrate the work of faith with power, which is to stand against dependency in the natural and trust in the word and not yourself.
27. So, Jesus will be glorified through you to others, as you let His grace equip you to honour Him.