

2 Thessalonians

Lesson #3, Chapter 1 :1-5

1. In verses 1 and 2 Paul greets the Thessalonian church. How does the beginning of this letter compare to 1 Thess. 1:1?

2. What does Paul want the Thessalonians to have and who is it from (verse 2)?

3. Define *grace* [Strong's #5485] and *peace* [Strong's #1515].

4. Choose a minimum of 3 verses from each category below to answer this question: *What is the significance of Paul saying, "Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"?*
 - a. For verses on grace you can look up 3 or more of these verses: Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; 5:15; Eph. 2:8; Col. 1:6; Titus 3:7.

 - b. For verses on peace you can look up 3 or more of these verses: Rom. 5:1; 15:33; Eph. 2:14; Phil. 4:7; Col. 1:20; 2 Thess. 3:16.

5. See 1 Thess. 3:10 and 12 where Paul prays and writes of the Thessalonians' need for continued growth in the areas of faith and love. How is Paul's prayer and exhortation answered in 2 Thess. 1:3?

6. Paul says, *We ought always to give thanks*. The word *ought* means to be under obligation, to owe, to be bound up to one's duty. What 2 reasons compel Paul to thank God for the Thessalonians (verse 3)?

7. When Paul stated "your faith is greatly enlarged" he used a Greek word that means intensive growth or increase. It means to grow exceedingly. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about Christians and a growing faith: Job 17:9; Ps. 84:7; 92:13; Prov. 4:18; Is. 49:29-31; Jn. 15:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-10; 3:18.

8. What does the growing love among the members of this church reveal? See Jn. 15:12; Gal. 5:22; 1 Pet. 1:22; and 1 Jn. 3:10, 14; 5:2.

9. A Christian is to be ever-growing, always increasing in their faith and love. What things seem to hinder your faith toward God and your love for the saints? What is the solution when we're weak or lacking in certain areas of our walk? See 1 Thess. 3:12; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5.

10. When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure from this earth, He told them in John 13:33-35, "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.'" Think on these verses and explain how they can be true.

11. Name 3 (or more) specific ways in which you can show love to the brethren of your church.

12. Verse 4 begins with *therefore*. What is the connection between verse 3 and verse 4?

13. Just as there is a godly kind of jealousy, so there is a godly kind of pride or boasting. What elements make the pride Paul mentions here in verse 4 acceptable? See Rom. 15:17-18; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 10:13; Gal. 6:14.

14. According to verse 4, why does Paul speak proudly of the Thessalonians?

15. Define *perseverance* [Strong's #5281 (ESV *steadfastness*; NKJV *patience*)] and *faith* [Strong's #4102].

16. Where (or when) do the Thessalonians exercise their perseverance and faith (verse 4)?

17. Define *persecutions* [Strong's #1375], *afflictions* [Strong's #2347 (NKJV *tribulations*; NIV *trials*)], and *endure* [Strong's #430].

18. How would knowing that God judges righteously and hearing the commendation of their endurance in trial bring encouragement to the suffering Thessalonians?

19. How does suffering and enduring make a believer worthy of the Kingdom of God? See Acts 14:22; Rom. 8:17-18 (19-39); 2 Tim. 2:12; Heb. 10:32-39; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; 4:12-19.

20. Read Rev. 21:1-7 to see what God has in store for those who endure until the end. What do you learn?

21. What truths from this lesson have impacted you? What are some ways you want to begin implementing some of the truths you have studied in these verses?

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ~ James 1:2-4

But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ~ 1 Peter 5:9

“When God would judge the Thessalonians they would be declared worthy of God’s kingdom. Endurance in trials does not make one worthy of heaven; one does not earn heaven by suffering. But endurance in trials does demonstrate one’s worthiness. A Christian is made worthy by God’s grace, which he receives as a free gift by faith in Jesus Christ. His trials simply expose what is there already and since the character that emerges through the fire of testing is God-given, God receives all the glory.” ~ Bible Knowledge Commentary