

Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 7 - 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
(October 31-November 6)
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Verse to remember - 2 Thessalonians 1:11

“We always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith.”

Gathering

Opening prayer

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 aloud.

1. Based on the thanksgiving section (1:3-4), how have Paul’s prayers and exhortations from 1 Thessalonians borne fruit? (See 3:10-13; 4:9-10; 5:11, 23-24.)

2. What is missing from 1:3-4? (For a hint, see 1Th. 1:3 and 5:8). What might this omission signify?

3. Based on 2 Thessalonians 1, what seems to have changed since the writing of 1 Thessalonians?

4. In the New Testament, suffering seems to have been an expected part of the life of faith (2 Thessalonians 1:5). See also Luke 6:22-23, Acts 5:41 and 14:22, Romans 8:17, 1 Peter 1:8. How do you fit your own or others’ suffering into your understanding of the life of faith? How has suffering impacted your faith, whether for good or ill?

5. What makes you the most uncomfortable in 1:5-10?

6. How do you “obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” (1:8)?

7. From passages like 2:9, Matthew 8:12, Luke 16:23-26, Matthew 7:23, and Revelation 20:7-15 come a particular understanding of hell. What is your understanding of this concept?

One option: “Heaven is a sharing in Christ’s glory as he is glorified in us; hell is a total nonparticipation in his transforming glory. Those in whom Christ is glorified thereby find themselves and the fullness of their humanity; those excluded from the glory of Christ thereby lose themselves in total, irrecoverable ruin” (BST 154).

8. The letter is framed in “peace” (1:2 and 3:16), indicating that this is the lens through which to read the letter. How might one reconcile this with 1:5-10?

9. In 1:11, Paul prays that “our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power [your] every good resolve and work of faith.” How do you understand the idea of God fulfilling *your* resolve and work by *his* power?

10. What might it mean to have Jesus glorified in us and us in him? Give your own understanding, and then see below for one commentator’s suggestion.

“Our characters will become Christlike... Finally delivered from all sin and selfishness, we shall instead be filled to capacity with love for God and others. In consequence, we shall discover our true human identity” (BST 152).

11. Questions for personal application.

What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

Closing prayer