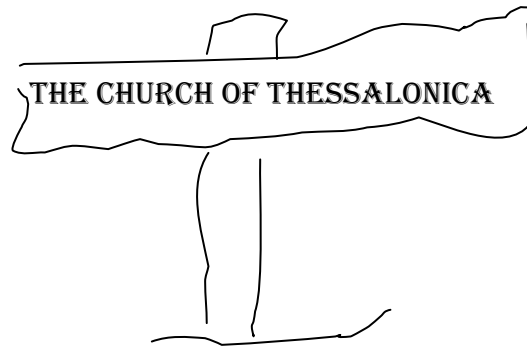


letters to Thessalonica

#9 encouragement in affliction, II Thess 1:1-12

We know from I Cor 18:11 that Paul stayed in Corinth for ~1 ½-years. We also can safely conclude that both letters to Thessalonica were written from there.

More than likely, news of the new church was brought to the team, in Corinth, by couriers. Of late, the messages told of false teaching regarding “the day of the Lord”, that contradicted Paul’s teaching in the first letter. However, along with this, the couriers brought good news regarding the congregation’s faith and love toward one another.



1 Paul and 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 the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;

[1.] v:1-2, How did Paul identify the brethren at Thessalonica so that any one would know what their group was?

[2.] question [1.] Consider the way churches are identified in our time and location. Why would or why wouldn't our brothers in Thessalonica be able to recognize us?

[3.] v:3, faith is greatly enlarged, As the born-again, we know that the Thessalonian's "faith" in Christ saved them. Now that they were saved, what does this "enlarged faith" accomplish?

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4 therefore, 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.

[4.] question [3.], Choose one of the following verses and write what it says about a Christian's life of faith. II Cor 1:24, II Cor 5:7, Gal 2:20, I Tim 6:11-12 or Heb 11:6.

[5.] v:3 again, On the other hand, according to I Jn 2:11, why would Paul grieve if he heard there was hatred in their midst?

[6.] v:4, persecutions and afflictions, We are not told specifically what these were, however, having read Acts and I Thessalonians, what might be some things that were happening to these believers?

[7.] v:4 again, perseverance, This verse says that Paul spoke proudly of the believers perseverance. Why or why doesn't it seem he "slighted" the Thessalonians by not giving details of their ordeal like the "Christian" media does today?

Before we go on let's review how the Bible identifies persecutors.

[8.] According to Gal 4:29, who is a persecutor?

[9.] v:29 again, Looking at the whole verse, why or why wouldn't this description ever be out of date?

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[10.] v:29 again, From the list below choose the best description of the persecutor.

- a democrat a Muslim not born-again a certain religion
- any non-American

[11.] v:29 again, Prior to our salvation, why or why couldn't you or me have been a persecutor of the church?

[12.] Something to think about! Why might Satan, in his subtlety, allow some of his domain to be really nice folks and others to be persecutors?

back to II Thess 1:5

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 indeed you are suffering. 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

[13.] v:5, indeed you are suffering, **From the list below, select for which reason the Thessalonians were persecuted.**

- a) the right to vote
- b) prayer in the schools
- c) world peace
- d) the kingdom of God

[14.] v:7, the Lord Jesus will be revealed, **Who or what is with Christ when He is revealed?**

[15.] v:7 again, **When will the afflictions to Christians finally end?**

letters to Thessalonica

#9 encouragement in affliction, II Thess 1:1-12

8 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 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 in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed – for our testimony to you was believed.

11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count 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, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[16.] v:6, 8, 9, the penalty, **What do these verses say will happen to those who have persecuted the church?**

[17.] v:8, who do not know God, **What does I Jn 2:23 say about those who claim to know God but, have ignored Christ?**

[18.] question [17.] **Can you think of a religious group, in your lifetime, that have not confessed the Son?**

[19.] v:11, count you worthy of your calling, **If, like Paul, you were praying this prayer for some folks in your congregation, what things would you mention to God?**

[20.] v:12, name of our Lord Jesus, **Name some things that the born-again might avoid for this to be true of them.**

letters to Thessalonica

#9 encouragement in affliction, II Thess 1:1-12

NOTES