



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

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Introduction

Authorship:

St. Paul. Timothy and Silvanus were mentioned as coworkers with him in establishing the church in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)

Date:

was written in Corinth around 53 AD. (one year after he wrote the first epistle)

Theme:

Steadfastness while waiting for the Lord

Purpose:

to praise them for their growth in faith and love and for their steadfastness in enduring the persecution.



Introduction

- To correct their misunderstanding about the time of the coming of the Lord
- To instruct them to work and not to be lazy
- **Background:** The church was formed in 50 AD during St. Paul's second missionary trip
- It was composed mainly of gentiles and they experienced persecution by their fellow citizens
- Because of the persecution, many people thought that it is the great tribulation



Introduction

- So many of them quit working to wait for the coming of the Lord
- Chapter 1 is an introduction, started by salutation and greeting (1,2)
- Thanksgiving for their faith, love, and patience (3, 4)
- The righteous judgment of God (5-10)
- His prayer for them (11-12)



Salutation (1:1,2)

- Any church is founded in God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Grace and peace are the most needed gifts to any believer
- Grace: because without Him we cannot do anything
- Peace: in the middle of the stormy world
- We have to know the grace of God first in order to experience His peace



Thanksgiving (1:3,4)

- St. Paul is giving thanks to God on their behalf because:
 - ❖ Their faith grows exceedingly
 - ❖ Their love abounds toward each other as he instructed them in his first letter
 - ❖ Their faith and endurance of all the persecution and tribulations



Thanksgiving (1:3,4)

- St. Paul does not give credit to himself but to God
- So, he is bound to give thanks to God always as fitting
- St. Paul boast of them among the other churches to set an example and also to encourage and motivate them

The Righteous Judgment of God (1:5-10)



- Their endurance of suffering is evidence that they are looking for something better: to be counted worthy of the kingdom of God
- This is also an evidence that they believe in the righteous judgment of God (the rich man and Lazarus):
 - ❖ God will repay with tribulations those who troubled them
 - ❖ God will give rest to those who are troubled and to the Apostles

The Righteous Judgment of God (1:5-10)



- In His second coming from heaven, the Lord will come:
 - ❖ With His might and angles that will execute the righteous judgment of God
 - ❖ In flaming fire: whether the fire of His glory (as the burning bush) or the fire of His vengeance

The Righteous Judgment of God (1:5-10)



- His vengeance will be upon:
 - ❖ Those who don't know God (even from nature and consciences)
 - ❖ Those who don't obey the gospel of Christ (faith requires obedience)
- The punishment will be everlasting destruction (not temporarily) from:
 - ❖ The presence of the Lord: driven away
 - ❖ The glory of His power: not enjoying it

The Righteous Judgment of God (1:5-10)



- In His second coming, the Lord will be:
 - ❖ Glorified in His saints: because of His marvelous works in them
 - ❖ Admired among all the believers: because of their transfiguration
- The believers in Thessalonica will participate in that joy because they believed the testimony of the apostles



His Prayer For Them (1:11,12)

- St. Paul is praying always for them that God may:
 - ❖ Count them worthy of His calling
 - ❖ Fulfill the good pleasure of His goodness (their salvation)
 - ❖ Fulfill their work of faith with His power
- Thus the name of the Lord will be glorified in them (through fulfilling His works in them)
- And we are glorified in Him (by receiving the grace of the Father and the Son)



Conclusion

- For what did St. Paul give thanks for them?
- How is their endurance of the persecution, an evidence of the righteous judgment of God?
- Describe the second coming of Christ?
- Upon whom the vengeance of God will come?
- What is the main punishment of the sinners?
- For what did St. Paul pray for them?
- How could we be counted worthy for kingdom of God and His calling?