

The Day of the Lord
Lesson #10
2 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12

Historical Background

“Shortly after sending his first letter to the Thessalonians, word evidently reached Paul about a new problem in the church. There had been a misunderstanding (or perhaps someone had misrepresented Paul) concerning his teaching about the Day of the Lord. Because of the severe persecution they were under, some at Thessalonica thought that the judgments of the Day of the Lord had already begun. As a result, some of the believers had quit their jobs and were depending on the charity of others for their needs. Paul writes to correct this teaching and to tell the lazy individuals to get back to work.” ¹

Introduction – 2 Thessalonians 1:1, 2

1. Who is this letter from?
2. To whom is it addressed?
3. What is the opening greeting?

Thanksgiving and Prayer – 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

4. Paul opened with an interesting phrase, *“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers.”* Why did Paul say that he was obligated to do so? (2 Thessalonians 1:3)
5. Paul said that he also boasted about them among God’s churches. Why was Paul so proud of these, his spiritual children? (2 Thessalonians 1:4)
6. Their lives had become evidence that God’s judgment is right. What is the expected result of this? (2 Thessalonians 1:5)
7. Note the end of verse 5, *“...you are suffering.”* This was an ongoing situation that was very difficult for them. Paul encouraged them by reminding that *“God is just.”* What was Paul referring to? (2 Thessalonians 1:6, 7a)

- When will this happen? (2 Thessalonians 1:7b)
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8. Paul told the Thessalonians what the final destination will be for all who do not know God or obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. What is their final destination?
(2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9)

 9. The people of the church of Thessalonica were enduring severe persecution because they had placed their faith in Jesus as the Christ. What can they expect on the Day of the Lord?
(2 Thessalonians 1:10)

 10. Paul assured them of his constant prayers on their behalf. What did Paul say that he prayed for? (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

 11. What was Paul's stated reason for this prayer request? (2 Thessalonians 1:12)

Reflect: This historical period in time was one of intense persecution and suffering for anyone who claimed faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, the Christ. Paul, Silas and Timothy endured great suffering for the name of the Lord Jesus and yet, they remained faithful. Today we suffer in more subtle ways. We may not be beaten publicly, but the enemy finds ways to discourage and distract us from putting our faith and trust in the Lord. What things in your life discourage your faith?

If you can readily identify areas of discouragement in your life, may I encourage you to give those over to the Lord? Ask your discussion leader and/or your group to pray for you in this area. Then, be aware and alert to your vulnerability to attack and hold tight to the prayer of Paul in 1 Thess. 5:23, *"May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* And remember the promise in 1 Thessalonians 5:24, remember, *"The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it!"*

The Man of Lawlessness – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

12. In chapter two, Paul identified the problem and his reason for writing this second letter. He learned that the Thessalonians had become alarmed that the day of the Lord had already come. How did they come to believe that? (2 Thessalonians 2:2)

13. Paul was emphatic saying, *"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way."* What did he say they should watch for? (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

14. Paul said the man of lawlessness is doomed for destruction. What will he do that will reveal his true identity? (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

15. Paul reminded the Thessalonians that he had already told them these things when he was with them. What did he say was holding back the man of lawlessness? (2 Thessalonians 2:6)
 - Is he already at work? (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

16. Once his identity is revealed, who will be able to overthrow him and how? (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

17. Using 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10a:
 - Who is the power source behind the man of lawlessness?

 - How will his power be displayed?

18. The purpose of the man of lawlessness is deception. And, he will deceive many who will die in that deception. Why did Paul say they would perish? (2 Thessalonians 2:10b)

19. Stop and reread your answer above. Paul said they "*refuse*." What does that imply to you?
20. "*For this reason*," what has God done? (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
21. Rather than believing the truth, what do the man of lawlessness and those who follow him delight in? (2 Thessalonians 2:12)

¹ Strauss, Mark: *Acts & the Pauline Epistles class notes*, Bethel Seminary San Diego, 2004, pg. 42