

A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians (NIV 1984)

**“To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
(1 Thess. 1:1b and 2 Thess. 1:1b)**

Just for review purposes, do you know the answers to these questions:

1. In what province/region/area is the city of Thessalonica located?
2. In what city do we believe Paul to be as he writes the letters to the Thessalonians?
3. Who were the first in Thessalonica to become Christians? (Acts 17:1-4)

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4

- 1) Note v.1. Who are mentioned as the ones sending this letter?
- 2) Compare 1 Thessalonians 1:1 with 2 Thessalonians 1:1. Is there any change in regards to those sending the letter?
- 3) Note v.1. To whom is the letter sent?
- 4) Compare 1 Thessalonians 1:1 with 2 Thessalonians 1:1. Is there any change in regards to the recipients of this letter?
- 5) Note v.1. Paul speaks of “to our Father whereas in 1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul speaks of “the Father.” Is there any significance to this subtle change?
- 6) Note v.2. Paul identifies what 2 as the sources of grace and mercy?
- 7) Note v.3. What does Paul say we ought to do? How often?

“ought” – indicates obligation or necessity

“rightly so” – is literally “as is fitting”

These 2 ideas express that such thanksgiving is Paul’s solemn duty, even when the circumstances are less than joyful.

8) Note v.3. What 2 does Paul reveal that he feels thankful for concerning the Thessalonians?

9) Note v.3. How is the Thessalonians' faith?

10) Note v.3. Who do the Thessalonians love?

11) Note v.3. What is the status of the Thessalonians' love for each other?

12) Note v.4. Therefore, among what group? We do what?

13) Note v.4. What 2 does Paul say they boast about?

Compare 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10 and 2 Thessalonians 1:4. What did you learn about the Thessalonians' reputation?

14) Note v.4. The Thessalonians' faith and perseverance are evident as they endure what 2?

“perseverance” – stresses active endurance under difficulty and pressure; it is patience put into practice in suffering

“faith” – refers in this context to constancy in faith, or faithfulness; the Thessalonians have maintained their position in Christ despite the difficulties it has brought to them

These 2 terms (“perseverance” and “faith”) are obviously similar in meaning, and Paul draws them even more closely together by modifying both with a single definite article.

Endurance and faith are the Thessalonians one response to persecution.

“persecutions” – indicates specifically the sufferings inflicted by others because of their opposition to one's beliefs

“trials” – can refer more broadly to any kind of suffering but is frequently used in the New Testament to refer specifically to persecution that comes because of one's faith

The combination (“persecutions and trials”) probably emphasizes the severity of the Thessalonians' sufferings, and no distinction between the words is stressed.

“enduring” – is in the present tense which indicates continuing action

2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-12

- 1) Note v.5. What is all this evidence of? As a result, they will be counted as worthy of what? For which they are doing what?
- 2) Note v.6. God is what? What will He do?
- 3) Note v.7. To whom will God give relief? And to whom else as well?
- 4) Note v.7. When will this happen? Revealed how?
- 5) Note v.8. Whom will He punish?
- 6) Note v.9. With what will they be punished?
- 7) Note v.9. They will be shut out from what 2?
- 8) Note v.10. When will this punishment and shutting out occur?
- 9) Note v.10. Glorified where? Marvelled at where?
- 10) Note v.10. This includes whom? Because you did what?
- 11) Note v.11. With this in mind, Paul says he does what?
- 12) Note v.11. That our God may count them how?
- 13) Note v.11. And that by His what? He may fulfill what? And every act prompted by what?
- 14) Note v.12. What reason does Paul give for saying this prayer?
- 15) Note v.12. According to what?