

Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians – Part 1 (50–51)

2 Thessalonians 1–3

Greeting

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.

Thanksgiving for Their Perseverance in Suffering

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;

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.

The Judgment of Christ at His Return

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,

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.

A Prayer for God's Power

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.

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Chronological Notes

1) 2 Thessalonians.¹

- A) 2 Thessalonians was probably composed several months after 1 Thessalonians, perhaps in the winter of 50. 2 Thessalonians 1:1 identifies Paul, Timothy and Silas as coauthors. According to the testimony of Acts, these three men traveled together only during the second missionary journey. 2 Corinthians 1:9 confirms that Paul and Timothy resided together in Corinth, and Silas is probably also among the “brothers from Macedonia” mentioned in 2 Corinthians 11:7–11. Paul was probably not in Athens long enough to have written 1 Thessalonians there. It is even less likely that he composed his second letter in Athens. So 2 Thessalonians was probably written within a few months of the first letter, and Paul's 18 months in Corinth affords more than enough time for the letter to have been written there.

¹ Andreas J. Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown* (B&H Academic, 2009): 441–42.