

Paul's Second Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1:1-5

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TITLE:

**“FAITH UNDER PRESSURE”
AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST**

THEME:

“2 Thessalonians 2:2

“Do not be shaken in mind or troubled.... either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”

At the Firestone Rubber Company in Ohio, Betty Wyatt sat as an inspector on the manufacturing line of Military Life Rafts for the US airforce. Her young son had entered the service. He had good grades and received excellent marks and so was selected to enter the army air corp. to become a pilot. It was early 1945 and during one of his missions he was entangled in a great air battle in the south pacific - it was in that battle that was shot down. Back home his mother was struggling over her “little Involvement” in the war effort. She was frustrated because she wanted to do more but couldn't. Just then the news arrived that her son had been shot down over the pacific and was presumed lost at sea. But I'm inspector #345! She cried. I make life rafts for downed pilots! This can't be happening to me? Betty quit her job at the Firestone Rubber Co. and spent the next several months in her home shut in and shut out from the world. On one of those days there was a knock at the door and to Betty's joy stood her son! As they shared together the events he told of parachuting down into the ocean. He said “I survived for a month in a raft, eating and drinking whatever I could. Early one morning as I was asleep in the raft I awoke to the nudge and tug of several large sharks circling the raft. The sharks began to bite on the raft. This went on for hours until I saw an approaching navy ship. The sharks continued their assault as the navy ship hurried to hoist me aboard. At that moment the sharks began to consume the raft as I held on to whatever piece I could - Mom, he said, Because of God, this is all that's left of that raft - but I'm here with you! Betty Wyatt took a look at what was left of that raft stamped on the backside was “Inspected by #345” - Betty had done more than what she could have expected, she saved her sons life.

You See, the News that Her Son had been lost at sea, was true.

But what she didn't know was that in fact her son was very much alive and well.

The Church at Thessalonica had received Paul's

news, His First letter to them, But many of them had become confused and many began to lose hope because an impostor letter that had been sent stating that the Lord had come and that the tribulation had begun - suggesting that the Post-Tribulation Rapture View is the correct View

THEIR CONFUSION CAUSED THEM TO QUIT THEIR JOBS AND SIT.

If the End is Near, Lets Go sit on the side of the Hill and wait for the end to come...

Paul's Purpose:

To Comfort them regarding the Promise - JESUS IS COMING BACK !!!

2 Thessalonians 2:2

not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

5 Times in 5 chapters Paul assured them to be expecting the Lord's return at any moment... and that the Lord would come prior to the great tribulation period and before the out pouring of God's wrath upon the earth.

The Content:

Paul instructs them again on the end time events and exhorts them to #1 be careful about what they hear and #2 to execute some church discipline among the lazy...

2 Thessalonians 3:6

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who (walks disorderly) is idle and does not live according to the (traditions) teaching you received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-11

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. :11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

So the church was confused about #1 Being Under Increasing Persecution which led them to lose hope #2 about how they should act in the midst of trials and tests that are common to all those who are true Christians...

A.) Paul Encourages Them In the Lord vv. 1-2

A Good Thing to Do When Someone is Down

A Good thing to Do All the Time

1) He Reminds Them of their True Identity

Verse 1

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To **the church(the called out ones)** of the Thessalonians **in** God our Father and (in) the Lord Jesus Christ:

Paul reminds them of **who** they are... and **where** they are !!!
BECAUSE IT WAS GETTING EXPENSIVE TO BE A CHRISTIAN

A WISE THING TO DO WHEN SOMEONE IS DOWN ((BUILD THEM UP IN THE LORD))

- #1 HE REMINDS THEM OF THEIR POSITION IN GOD
- #2 HE BOASTS OF THEIR WITNESS IN THE LORD

Having a Godly Reputation can Really help out in a time of weariness
(Hey, Jesus' Name is on the Line Here)

Romans 8:31
...If God is for us, who can be against us?
((THERE ARE PLENTY AGAINST US, JUST WAIT - BUT **GOD IS FOR US**))

Verse 2

Grace to you and **peace** from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace is given to us NOT from both sides,
BUT in double portions...
In Super Abundance of Supply - **AS A GUARANTEE FOR US !**

If you are **Born Again** by the Spirit of God, You and I, so to speak, have a basket on top of our heads and God is just loading up the graces !!!

- **Do you know how much grace** it takes to keep you & me from running out of here and sinning
*#\$\$^(@!^&&%.... It Takes a **Super Abundant Amount of Grace!**
- **Do you know how much grace** it takes to keep you and me close to Jesus every day
*#\$\$^(@!^&&%.... It Takes a **Super Abundant Amount of Grace!**

There go I, **BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD**

B.) Encouragement - Faith was Growing vv. 3

Persecution Causes True Faith to Grow

The Church in the Western World is weak. Because of a lack of Outward Persecution

Paul's Words to a New Church...

Acts 14:22

(Paul and the others) strengthened the souls of the disciples, **exhorting** them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**"

Jesus' Words to a New Church...

John 15:17

"These things I command you, that you love one another. :18 "If (since) the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. :19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer (Imagine Listing in on this Prayer)

John 17:14

"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ()

Verse 3a

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren,
as it is fitting, **(IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO)**

Paul was "practicing" what he had preached earlier...

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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Bound

GRK 3784 ophailo (of-i'-lo)

to be put under obligation or a debt through something that is accruing or compounding by the moment. To owe a great amount that cannot be paid in full

Paul Was The Example They Needed

1 Thessalonians 1:2

We "**give thanks**" to God always **for you all**, making mention of you in our prayers,

(((Hey I Thank God For You... what a great thing to say to someone & mean it)))

1 Thessalonians 3:9

For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,

C.) Their Faith was Growing

vv. 3b

2) They had an Exciting, Active Faith

because your **faith** grows exceedingly,

The Trials had Developed

a Sure and Confident Faith.... that God was, in Fact Very, Faithful to see them through...

Christian - We Are Heading for The Finish Line You Know !

**WITHOUT TRIALS (PRESSURE),
YOUR FAITH WILL NEVER GROW AND IT WILL NEVER TAKE YOU
DEEPER IN THE LORD...**

BUT JACK - I DO NOT WANT TO GO DEEPER - TRUST HIM

The True Christian will never be content to just sit and exist

We pray "God Causes me to grow - and He will"

Because of your Physical Trials -
- Your Faith is True and Growing

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said to the Jesus, "Increase our faith."

D.) Their Love was Abounding

vv. 3c

3) They had an Obvious Love for God & Man

and the **love** of every one of you all, abounds toward each other,

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Love

GRK 26 agape (ag-ah'-pay)

divine affection and benevolence; a love-feast:

* **Abounds** GRK 4121 pleonazo (pleh-on-ad'-zo)
to superabound increase, to have in overflowing amounts

Psalm 103:8
The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

Like the Old Testament Priest... Wherever They Took the Ark, the Mercy seat had to go. Wherever they went, so did the mercy of the Lord, through the priest.

E.) Their Patience was Increasing vv. 4

The Word "Patience" here is more Correct in the Queens English
We would say today "Perseverance"

To Be Continuing On in the Face of Opposition

It's when things seem to align themselves against you

We Often "Give Up" when we should be
"Giving Over" to God all our Sufferings!

James 5:10
My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. :11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord-- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

We are to be bearers of God's mercy to the Suffering

The Outcome of Our Suffering & Persecution

Philippians 3:10
that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Why Should We Have Hope in The Process ?

Romans 5:3
we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; :4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Jesus Put it this way... “Father, Into your hands I commend my Spirit”

Verse 4

so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your **patience** and ((faith)) in all your **persecutions** and **tribulations** that you endure,

We had Better Understand this Next Thought Here.... How Does Satan Stumble a Christian ?

Often by Twisting our Knowledge of Suffering ie: (Mr. JOB)

Satan attacked and attacked well... but something went terribly wrong for Satan, JOB offered Praise unto the Lord ("blessed be the name of the LORD.") and the praise broke the attack

Satan's attacks can be resisted by us Choosing to praise the Lord

James 4:7-8a

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. :8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

THE REASONS FOR PAUL THANKSGIVING PRAYER...

* **patience** **GRK. 5281 hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay')**
a cheerful and hopeful endurance, a constancy in and a mastery over the situation - enduring

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

* **Persecutions** **GRK Attacks from Outside**

* **Tribulations** **GRK 2347 thlipsis (thlip'-sis)**
Pressures that come from the outside attacks. intense pressure. To be placed under a heavy burden, to bear the load

WHEN A MAN WAS ACCUSED OF A WRONG, the ancient romans would lay that man down and place a board on his chest. Then they would lay a huge stone so that the man could not inhale. This would encourage a confession - but in Christ, there's no confession that we can give, because there is nothing that we are guilty of... so glory is given to God's ability to save us completely

NOTICE THIS

This Word "Faith" is the word that means to "Walk together through something"

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

WHEN WE BEAR UP UNDER THE PRESSURE - WE GLORIFY GOD

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and **eternal weight of glory**,

James 1:2

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials **of many kinds**, :3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. :4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

#1 THEY WILL HAPPEN TO EVERY BELIEVER (TO DRIVE THE WORD DEEPER)

#2 THEY'RE CUSTOM MADE FOR YOU BY THE LORD (IT IS AN HONOR)

#3 THEY VARY IN DEPTH AND IN INTENSITY (TO ENCOURAGE US)

#4 THEY PRODUCE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER & MATURITY (NO PAIN, NO GAIN)

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. :3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. :4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

NOW THAT YOU'RE CHRIST'S'

"EVERY SITUATION" IN MY LIFE IS FOR MY BENEFIT & HIS GLORY

how should we view hardships,
trials & tests ?

1 Peter 1:5

WE who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. :6 In this you greatly rejoice,

though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, :7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, :8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (TRIALS CAUSE ME TO REFOCUS ON CHRIST and TO GIVE HIM GLORY)

our attitude is to be,

Romans 8:27-28

Now He (THE LORD) searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. :28 **And (or for this reason) we know that all things work together for good.... (only for a very select group - those who are born again) to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

Peter... Satan has desired to sift you as wheat, "but I have prayed for you"

***** Think Now *****

what is it in your life today, this week, these past few months, this year

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

Psalm 37:31

The law (the Bible) of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.
THE LONELINESS THAT EMOTIONS & FEELINGS OFTEN GIVE US

Psalm 61:2

From the **end of the earth** (That's how far away he felt from God) I will cry to You, **when my heart is overwhelmed**; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Verse 5

which (by the way) is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, #1 that you may be **counted** worthy of the kingdom of God, #2 for which (REASON, PURPOSE) you also **suffer**;

THE OPPOSITION THAT YOU ARE RECEIVING HAS :

- #1 Been forewarned = That makes it a Proof
- #2 Jesus Historically received the same
- #3 Our brothers & sisters in the past received the same
- #4 Is senseless

EXAMPLE:

Acts 5:40

And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. :41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

**THE DISCIPLES KNEW "WHO" HE WAS AND IS...
AN EXAMPLE OF "KNOWING HIM" IS...**

2 Chronicles 5:13

"it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

**The actions brought against you in this life
will be rewarded in the future (AND in the negative)**

2 Timothy 4:14

Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

During World War II When The Germans Invaded North Africa, The American Missionaries Were Forced To Leave The Newly Established Churches. Once The War Was Over They Returned To Find Not One Church Abandoned, But They All Had Grown In Depth And In Size

Whenever persecution breaks out against you, your faith will always be tested - Godward and your Love will be tested - manward.

Remember:

The Testing of Your Faith is Proof Positive that God is Real, Your Walk is real, That Satan is Real, and that Heaven is Real - And you're going there !

The trial & test that you are involved in feels terrible
because it is your test
It's not mine, mine is not yours.

What Makes a Test a Test is that it's designed For You
(Not Against You)