

LWMORG

N. T. BIBLE COMMENTARY - GROUP MEETING STUDY

by Minister R. Thomas Lambur

2 Thessalonians chapter 1

To Those Called Out Of The World Separate Unto Jesus Christ

2Th 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church (the called out ones) of the Thessalonians (this second Epistle Paul wrote) in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (God is our Father by the provision of Jesus Christ has done for us at the Cross):

2 Grace unto you, and peace (Sanctifying Peace from being right with God), from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Growth In Christ

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet (proper), because that your faith groweth exceedingly (our faith increases through the knowledge of God as we study His Word... so our spiritual growth is dependent upon the study of the Bible), and the charity (love) of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth (the foremost hallmark of Christianity is love);

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God (they had taken Paul's teaching and used it to its fullest extent) for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure (the church here was persecuted by the Judaizing teachers, and this was continuing in repeated sufferings):

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God (seeing here that righteousness of God it is proof of that there will be the Righteous Judgment of God in the last day), that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer (they were being counted worthy of His grace and Kingdom for which they suffered – ref. Acts 5:41; I Pet. 4:12-16):

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you (left in the hands of the Lord, God is their Defender, they would experience God's justice and retribution upon their persecutors);

The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us (He will give relief to you), when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (reference made to His Second Coming, which is different from the Rapture 2 Thess. 2:1),

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (God will begin to pay back the wicked verse 6 at the beginning of the Tribulation Rev. 6 bringing His complete retribution 2 Thess. 1 verses 6-9 when He returns to earth in final judgment Rev 19:11-21):

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction (referring to God's future punishment of the wicked *Matt. 10:28*) **from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints (speaking in reference to the revelation of Christ' at the beginning of the eternal reign of His Kingdom – *His Coming in power and great glory to judge and set up His throne and His millennial "1000 year" reign on earth Rev.19:11-20:4*), **and to be admired in all them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.**

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you (without supernatural help the hope of the Believer cannot be realized), **that our God would count you worthy of this calling** (it is this Holy Character as the evidence of *Saving Faith* which will qualify men in "that day"), **and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power** (by *Faith* we are giving the Holy Spirit latitude to work in our lives through His Holy Spirit):

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you (the Holy Spirit at work), **and ye in him** (in Christ), **according to the grace** (by means of His grace at work) **of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ** (Paul prays for them in *three areas* – 1. counted worthy of their callings *Lk. 21:36* – 2. for God to blesses them as He desire to bless them, for them to *come into these blessings* – 3. that the Name of Jesus would become glorified through their witness by the transformation of their lives).

2 Thessalonians chapter 2

The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ And The Rapture!

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (this refers to both the Rapture and His Second Coming), **and by our gathering together unto him** (this phrase refers strictly to the Rapture - notice here we are going to Him to meet Him *in the air... in the clouds* – this is known as *the catching away* *1 Thess. 4:13-17* this event will deliver these from the wrath of God *1 Thess.1:10; 5:9-10*),

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled (false doctrine had cause this as it does today – false teaching unsettles them from the truth as it would for anyone who listen to it *Gal. 2:5*), **neither by spirit** (a false prophecy was given), **nor by word, nor by letter as from us** (someone had given a false prophecy that they had entered the Great Tribulation period), **as that the day of Christ is at hand** (the true script translation here is "the day of the Lord" referring to "the judgment day"... some were claiming was about to take place then, which was wrong, as Paul corrects them listing the three events which must take place "being fulfilled" before Christ returns *to earth* – 1.) a specific "apostasy" meaning *rebellion from doctrinal truth and adherence to a spirit of error* – "falling away" will occur – 2.) the man of lawlessness "the son of perdition" his appearance *before* the Rapture *Dan.7:18-26,27; Rev.6:2* – 3.) – the second reference to *his revealing as the Antichrist* is in *2 Thess. 2 verse 8* that pertains to *after the Rapture*).

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day ("that day" here is referring to the specific time sequence to these events taking place) **shall not come**, (signal events) **except there come a falling away** (first the apostasy... "departure from the faith" in

THE LORD IN THE "AIR"

1Thess. 4:13-17
But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Tim. 4:1 or removal from “*the supreme truth of God... the final authority of His written Word –The Scripture*” *afterwards* comes the Rapture) *first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God (declaring himself as Deity), *or that is worshipped* (the Antichrist will control all religions and make himself the sole object of worship); *so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God* (he will build the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and take it over as his headquarters), *shewing himself that he is God* (the climax of God’s day of final judgment starts when the Antichrist has set himself upon a throne in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem *Matt.24:15-20; Rev.13:14*).

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (There could be no excuse here to be drawn away into false doctrine because Paul had taught them before hand)

The Man Of Lawlessness Revealed - The Antichrist

6 And now ye know what withholdeth (speaking of the church) *that he might be revealed in his time.* (The Antichrist will be made know *after* the Rapture)

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work (the spirit of Antichrist and false teaching throughout the earth): *only he* (the Holy Spirit in the believers called the church that are given the restraining power) *who now letteth will let* (reads “*who will continue to hinder*”), *until he* (the Holy Spirit in the church) *be taken out of the way* (clearly this reference speaks to those “*espoused virgins*” *2 Corin. 11:2* - who were prepared and will enter through *the door* through being taken in the Rapture *catching away* – *Matt.25:10* they went through *the door* into *the Marriage Supper of the Lamb*).

8 And then (after the Rapture takes place) *shall that Wicked* (the Antichrist) *be revealed* (again proves that *the Rapture* will occur *before this junction and before the Great Tribulation* *Matt. 24:21*), *whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth* (translated “*with the breath of His mouth*” *Isa. 11:4 & Rev.19:11-16*), *and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming* (refers to the Second Coming) :

9 Even him (the Antichrist), *whose coming is after the working of Satan* (Satan is at work here through the Antichrist) *with all power and signs and lying wonders* (the Antichrist *through religious means* will bring about these *lying signs* to *deceive and captivate them*),

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish (these lying signs and wonders will be used to *bring them under dilution to deceive* the world); *because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved* (because they had already rejected Jesus Christ and their means of salvation they were led by the same *spirit of error* into deception).

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion (since these rejected “*The Truth*” of God’s Word about salvation through His Son, God saw to it that they be given over to “*a spirit of delusion*”), *that they should believe a lie* (translated “*the lie*” – *the lie* refers to the specific lie that leads a person away from “*The Truth of God*”):

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth (they believed not and rejected “*The Truth*” and didn’t accept their only means of salvation through Jesus), *but had pleasure in unrighteousness* (their delighted in and had pleasure here is a

specific *delight* and *pleasure* that turned them away from God “*love for this particular evil had dwelling in their heart*” 2 Tim.3:1-8 – it was a particular *unrighteousness* which they *desired* in their heart *against God* in their conscience meaning “*with knowledge*” of His *righteousness* Rom.1:28 and they were given over to their *desires* for judgment and *eternal destruction*).

Stand Firm In Your Believing In The Truth Of God’s Word

13 *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you* (we need to thank God that we did not succumb to the lies of false teachers), *brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation* (God’s plan to rescue them that are being saved) *through sanctification of the Spirit* (the Holy Spirit who cleanses us) *and belief of the truth* (God’s Truth and His Salvation are closely related – it is *only* by the belief in God’s Truth that brings about *the means of salvation* – here it is explained that *the means of salvation is the work of sanctification* (cleansing which comes through the washing of His Word Eph.5:26 & Tit.3:5 it is this factor that has *kept us from being deceived falling into a spirit of error*):

14 *Whereunto he* (God) *called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

15 *Therefore, brethren, stand fast* (standing fast is the only way to continue in His truth) , *and hold the traditions* (adhering to the teachings) *which ye have been taught* (reference to what has been taught to them by Paul, which was the truth), *whether by word, or our epistle* (Paul had personally made known unto them “*the teachings of Christ;*” what he had preached as well as sent to them in both of his first and second letters).

16 *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself* (the Name of our Risen Lord), *and God, even our Father* (refers to their relationship in the Godhead together), *which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace* (salvation is only made possible through His grace),

17 *Comfort your hearts* (comfort is given through the Holy Spirit), *and stablish you in every good word and work* (understanding of His Word speeds the accomplishment of His work that is to be completed in us who believe).

2 Thessalonians chapter 3

1 *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course* (the intended purpose of His Word depends largely upon intercession, Paul is asking for this pray from the believers), *and be glorified* (that the Word’s full power and effect will be known and lived out in people’s lives), *even as it is with you* (the Thessalonians have had their lives changed by His Word):

2 *And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men* (Paul was asking for the Thessalonica’s to pray that God would deliver them from *false teachers*... it is this faithful intercession in the church that causes the desires of God to *flourish and be established* and the plans of Satan to be *frustrated*): *for all men have not faith* (translated “*all men have not the Faith*” warning them of counterfeits).

3 *But the Lord is faithful* (some men can't be trusted, yet God is always faithful), *who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil* (and so we can count on the help of His Spirit to protect the believers and deliver us from the devil and his intentions) .

4 *And we have confidence in the Lord touching you* (the Thessalonians), *that ye both do and will do the things which we command you* (continued growth under His grace is dependent upon our obedience to do what His Word says).

5 *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God* (direction comes to believers when complete and total control of our lives is given to the Lord, this direction comes according to our surrender to Him), *and into the patient waiting for Christ.* (Waiting patiently upon Him is how we correspond to His interaction while He rectifies the situation)

Warning By Example

6 *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ* (Paul is charging them to take heed to God's Word) , *that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly*, (this means to walk according to the Word of God and withdraw ourselves from the fellowship of those who follow or teach something different than His Word) *and not after the tradition which he received of us* (the Apostle here is literally speaking of what the Lord had given him of which he faithfully taught the people).

7 *For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us* (people better make sure they are following the Preaching or Teaching of God's Word *Gal.1:11-12*): *for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you* ("a disorderly life" is the opposite of a Sanctified life in which those who have escaped... sin no longer having dominion over these individuals *Rom.6:14*);

8 *Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought* (Paul didn't become a burden to others); *but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you* (Paul worked as a tent maker and met his own material needs):

9 *Not because we have not power* (Paul wanted nothing to do with a ministry that resembled those who were constantly scheming in order to get money from people, though Paul had the privilege in Thessalonica for asking support of his ministry *Phil. 4:15-16*), *but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.*

Exhortation

10 *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.* (It is wrong to give someone money of this type nature, who are lazy and won't work financial support... if they will not work they must go without.)

11 *For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies* (speaking of them who are loafers leeching off others and those who are idle busybodies which need to get a life for themselves).

12 *Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ* (speaking directly to those types by the authority of God in making these statements), *that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.* (Stop the

meddling in other's affairs and tend to your own life, work and keep to your own business.)

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. (On the other hand, Paul gives us the balance by saying to remember the needs of *the worthy poor*, and that was a entirely different situation from those who were *busybodies* of whom we are to *refuse support*.)

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. (Withdraw fellowship from them in the local body... who are at odds with this letter which Paul has written by the hand of God.)

15 Yet count him not as an enemy (this means just that “*let him be counted as an enemy*” rejecting his contradicting influence of God’s Word as one who is going *the wrong direction* through “*the spirit of error*”), **but admonish him as a brother** (however this statement encourages believers to engage in dialog for the purpose of turning this person around to agreement with God’s Word which has to do with *repentance from rebellion*).

Benediction

16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. (“*Sanctifying Peace*” is what this is speaking of...which can be *only* given to them as *the result* of them *submitting to His Word*.) **The Lord be with you all.** (The pronoun “*all*” has been included here for the direct purpose of including them of whom Paul was speaking to [the offenders] that they may turn back to the right way through repentance.)

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. (Paul brought attention here so that they might identify his letters and not be misled by false letters. This was to prove that in fact that Paul was the one who had written this letter to them by signing his signature upon this document to prove it was genuinely from him.)

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. <<*The second epistle to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.*>>

End of this letter...

Discussion & Pray Time:

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