

1 THESSALONIANS 2
1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS



I & II THESSALONIANS

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A Scriptorium Study from The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe

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1 Thessalonians 2: Introduction

It was important that Paul should review his ministry among the Thessalonians, to remind them both of how much he loved them, and of how powerfully the Gospel had begun its work in their midst.

1 Thessalonians 2 continues the celebration begun in chapter 1 and gets us ready for the further instructions Paul will give these believers in the rest of the book.

We're pleased to make this resource available for personal or group study at no charge, and we hope you will find this series helpful in realizing more of the presence, promise, and power of the Kingdom of God.

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1 Coming with Boldness

Pray Psalm 71.1-3.

In You, O LORD, I put my trust;
Let me never be put to shame.
Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;
Incline Your ear to me, and save me.
Be my strong refuge,
To which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You *are* my rock and my fortress.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2.1, 2.

Reflect.

1. In what sense was Paul's coming among the Thessalonians not "in vain"?
2. What did it look like as Paul preached the Gospel boldly? What would you look like if you were such a bold witness?

Meditate.

In 1 Thessalonians 2 Paul wants to establish his authority as an instructor of the Thessalonians. He has much to say to them in subsequent chapters, and in this chapter his aim is to establish his right to say it.

The phrase *not in vain* is Paul's way of saying that God blessed his preaching. His preaching bore fruit, and the Thessalonians became an example to churches and believers in every place (ch. 1). Such results don't just happen. Paul's boldness and effectiveness in Thessalonica was because he came to them *in God* (v. 2), that is, by His power, with His Word, and in His authority.

Opposition, harassment, persecution, conflict: None of this could keep Paul from doing the work appointed to him by the Lord. He was *bold in* the Lord in his preaching. He didn't hem and haw or stumble around with the message, or simply set it forward as, you know, just his opinion. He proclaimed the Good News of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and imminent return, calling people to repent and believe this Gospel to be delivered from the wrath to come (1.10).

That boldness in overcoming opposition and the fear of man could only come from God (*bold in our God to speak to you*). If the fear of men is preventing you from talking with others about the Good News of Jesus, you need to rest in the Lord, to call upon His power, and to open your mouth in faith that your witness will accomplish the purpose for which the Lord sends it out (Is. 55.10, 11). Our witness will not be in vain when we rest in the power of God to overcome our natural fear of men and share boldly of the grace of Jesus and the peace that comes from knowing and following Him.

Prepare.

1. Jesus has sent you to your Personal Mission Field as a bringer of His grace and peace. What will tell you that your *coming to* the people there is not in vain?
2. Whenever you feel the fear of man rising in you, what can you do to rest in God and draw on His power, so that you can talk boldly about Jesus and His grace? How can believers encourage one another in such

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boldness?

3. Do you expect to know opposition and conflict as you talk with others about Jesus? Should this keep you from talking to them about Him? Explain.

On the basis of Paul's example be even more disciplined in the midst of adverse circumstances. In this way adversity itself may increase significantly your desire for the love of God and your earnestness in good works. Similarly, the seeds planted for a future harvest germinate more fruitfully if they are covered over with frost. Likewise fire is increased by blowing on it that it may grow greater. Gregory the Great (540-604), *Letters* 30

Lord, today give me boldness, and fill me with Your grace, as I...

Pray Psalm 71.4-8.

Use these verses to commit yourself to bringing the grace and peace of the Lord to the people you will see this day.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 71.4-8, 3 (*Solid Rock: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*)

From wicked hands redeem me, Lord, from all who wrest and break Your Word;

My hope, my confidence from youth, my praise forever reaches You.

Refrain, v. 3

A Rock of habitation be; command Your Word to rescue me;

My Rock and Fortress ever be!

While many see in me a sign, I shelter in Your strength will find.

Lord, fill my mouth with endless praise and with Your glory all my days.

Refrain

2 Pleasing God, not Men

Pray Psalm 146.1, 2.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

While I live I will praise the LORD;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2.3-6.

Reflect.

1. Who, besides Paul, is “approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel”? What does that mean?

2. Does God test your heart? When?

Meditate.

Paul felt it necessary to remind the Thessalonians of his conduct and demeanor among them, how he served the Lord and sought nothing for himself. He had been “approved” of God to be “entrusted with the gospel,” and he was not about to do anything that would compromise that trust.

Paul’s motives were pure and honest, and his method was straightforward and truthful. He and his team weren’t seeking anything material from the Thessalonians, and they didn’t resort to man-pleasing and flattering ways to win converts. Paul let the Gospel do the work of converting; his task was to represent the truth of God by his life and words, and he is reminding the Thessalonians that this is precisely what he did.

When Paul says they “might have made demands as apostles of Christ” (v. 6), he refers to the right of those who preach the Gospel to expect those they serve to help meet their material needs (cf. Gal. 6.9; 1 Cor. 9.11-14). But he and his team did not make use of that right. They focused on serving the people of Thessalonica by every means, until they were driven out of town by opponents to the Gospel (Acts 17.10). Paul knew that if he was faithful in serving the Lord, the Lord would faithfully supply all his needs.

Prepare.

1. All believers have been “entrusted with the gospel.” What are we supposed to do with that trust? How can believers encourage one another to be faithful in this trust?

2. Paul says that God “tests our hearts.” What is He looking for (Ps. 139.23, 24)? What can we do to keep our hearts always ready for the Lord’s tests?

3. Can we be faithful to our Kingdom-and-glory calling (1 Thess. 2.12) and seek glory from men at the same time? Explain.

... a man must be irreproachable in conduct, prudent and discreet in his dealings with others, regardless of the dangers involved, and apt to teach. These were the qualifications that enabled Paul to reach his goal. John Chrysostom (344-407 AD), Homilies on Ephesians 6

Lord, help me to be faithful today with the Gospel that You have entrusted to my care, so that I...

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Pray Psalm 146.3-10.

Where will you need the Lord's help today? Have you committed your plans to Him? Are you ready to serve others so as to please and glorify Him? Use this psalm to help you prepare for serving the Lord in the day ahead.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 146.3-10 (*Hallelujah! What a Savior!: Man of Sorrows*)

Trust we not in prince or man – no salvation's in their hand;
Death shall take them, breath and plans – God forever reigns in Zion!

Blessed are they whose hope resides in the Lord, Christ at His side.
By Him heav'n and earth abide – God forever reigns in Zion!

He is faithful evermore; He gives justice to the poor,
feeds the hungry from His store – God forever reigns in Zion!

Jesus sets the pris'ner free, heals blind eyes that they may see,
lifts those burdened painfully – God forever reigns in Zion!

3 Dear to Him

Pray Psalm 113.1-3.

Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD,
Praise the name of the LORD!
Blessed be the name of the LORD
From this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its going down
The LORD's name *is* to be praised.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2.7-9.

Reflect.

1. What can we learn from Paul about relating to the people in our Personal Mission Field?
2. What does Paul mean by “affectionately longing for you”?

Meditate.

Paul was motivated by love for God and for the Thessalonians as he came preaching the Gospel to them. He sought nothing for himself, but gave freely of his time and strength in serving them. His dedication was obvious to all (v. 9), as he labored “night and day” in the work of the Gospel.

Paul likened himself to a mother, caring for her small children. He encourages us to seek the Lord for grace to love our neighbors like this. They were dear to him, just as he and they were dear to God. Paul's example suggests that we will be more faithful and consistent in making the Good News known to the people around us if we truly love and care for them.

What will it mean for us to impart “our own lives” to the people to whom God sends us? We'll need to get to know them, and to be available to them to encourage and assist them any way we can. And we should pray for them, for God to make Himself known to them by every means, and to prepare their hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom.

We must be ready at all times to share the Gospel, if only in part, and to talk about Jesus and what He has done for us. We won't always preach with our words, but we must always bear witness with our lives, and that witness begins in genuine love for the people in our Personal Mission Field.

Prepare.

1. What are some things you can do to show the love of God more consistently to the people in your Personal Mission Field?
2. Summarize the Gospel you will proclaim to these people as the Lord gives you opportunity. Pray for the people in your Personal Mission Field, and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share with them.
3. Is it always important to share *all* the Gospel whenever you have an opportunity to share? Explain.

These things tend to confirm what he had stated previously—that to spare them he did not spare himself. He must assuredly have burned with a wonderful and more than human zeal, inasmuch as, along with the labor of teaching, he labors with his hand as

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an operative, with the view of earning a livelihood, and in this respect, also, refrained from exercising his right. John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on 1 Thessalonians*

Lord, give me love for the people to whom You send me each day. Help me to serve them by every means, so that...

Pray Psalm 113.4-9.

Meditate on the Lord, high and exalted in glory. Then seek Him for grace for this day's opportunities and needs.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 113 (*Armageddon: Who is on the Lord's Side?*)

Praise the Lord, O praise Him, all who know His Name!

From this day forever, magnify His fame!

From the time each morning when the sun is raised
to its evening waning, let His Name be praised!

Refrain vs. 1, 2

Praise the Lord, O praise Him, all who know His Name!

From this day forever, magnify His fame!

High above the nations, on Your glorious throne,

Who is like You, Savior, ruling all You own?

Sovereign and all-knowing, over all above,

praise to You is owing for Your perfect love!

Refrain

Though You rule from heaven, looking down on earth,

praise and thanks be given to Your holy worth!

Down You reach to touch us, clad in ash and dust,

Raising us with such as in Your favor trust.

Refrain

Seated now with princes 'round Your glorious throne,

we by grace are lifted to become Your own.

Barren women, joyous, glad their children bear;

joining in the chorus, they Your praise declare.

Refrain

4 Called to His Kingdom and Glory

Pray Psalm 72.18, 19.

Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who only does wondrous things!
And blessed *be* His glorious name forever!
And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory.
Amen and Amen.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2.10-12.

Reflect.

1. Paul mentions what he *was* (three terms) and what he *did* (three terms) in his ministry at Thessalonica. Do these terms describe you in your Personal Mission Field?
2. How does God *call* us to His Kingdom and glory?

Meditate.

Here is the heart of Paul's view of the Christian life: We are called by God to His Kingdom and glory, and this requires a *walk worthy of God*.

God calls us. He has a purpose for our lives and a place in which our lives can realize their greatest happiness, fulfillment, and fruitfulness. He calls us to His Kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14.17, 18). And He calls us to His glory, that we might make Him known in all our words and ways (1 Cor. 10.31; Hab. 2.14). *Every believer shares in this Kingdom-and-glory calling*, although every one of us realizes and expresses that calling according to our station in life. It is the overarching and overriding calling of every person who professes belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Whatever our station in life, we pursue this calling as witnesses to God and men. We do not practice our faith in a closet, nor merely within the confines of like-minded friends. Nor is our faith merely a "spiritual" or "religious" matter. We have been sent to the world, each of us to our own Personal Mission Field, where God and men observe the hope our Kingdom-and-glory calling engenders and sustains. This means living righteous lives, practicing justice, and obeying the Law of God in all that it requires (blameless, cf. Lk. 1.6).

In our service to others, like Paul to the Thessalonians, we bring our lives to a level of devotion, justice (or righteousness, Greek: δικαιοσύνη), and blamelessness that allows us effectively to exhort, comfort, and charge others to take up this journey of faith with us. We note here that, whereas Paul used the image of a nursing mother in verse 7, here he employs that of a caring father. The point is to emphasize the centrality of self-denying love in carrying out our callings.

This is the Christian life as Paul lived and taught it. We are realizing the presence, promise, and power of God's Kingdom, and living for His glory, when our lives stand out like Paul's as "worthy" of those who make such a claim.

Prepare.

1. How do you define *devout, just (or righteous), and blameless*? To what extent do these define your life?
2. What does it mean to *exhort, comfort, and charge* others? Does this define your work in your Personal Mission

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Field?

3. Summarize your Kingdom-and-glory calling as this applies to your station in life.

He presents in a few words the sum and substance of his exhortations, that, in magnifying the mercy of God, he admonished them not to fail as to their calling. His commendation of the grace of God is contained in the expression, who hath called us into his kingdom. For as our salvation is founded upon God's gracious adoption, every blessing that Christ has brought us is comprehended in this one term. It now remains that we answer God's call, that is, that we shew ourselves to be such children to him as he is a Father to us. John Calvin (1509-1564 AD), Commentary on 1 Thessalonians 2

Lord, help me to pursue my Kingdom-and-glory calling today, O Lord, in all aspects of my life, especially as I...

Pray Psalm 72.12-20.

Call upon the Lord's help for all aspects of your Kingdom-and-glory calling as you will engage them today.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 72.12-20 (*Martyrdom: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*)

The Lord the needy rescues when he cries to Him for grace;
All they who suffer violence find mercy before His face.

Let Christ be praised and all the gold of Sheba be His right;
Let blessings to His Name be told, and prayers made both day and night.

And let the earth abound with grain, let fields His fame proclaim;
And may our King forever reign and nations bless His great Name.

Now bless the God of Israel Who wondrous works performs.
And bless His Name, His glory tell both now and forever more!

5 Powerful Word

Pray Psalm 33:1-5.

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!
For praise from the upright is beautiful.
Praise the LORD with the harp;
Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.
Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
For the word of the LORD *is* right,
And all His work *is done* in truth.
He loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16.

Reflect.

1. How would you summarize Paul's understanding of how the Word of God and faith work together?
2. How does Paul emphasize the unity of the Thessalonian church with other churches? Is this important?

Meditate.

Paul wants to make sure the Thessalonians understand that the real power at work among them was the power of the Word of God. Paul and his team had an important role to play in the Thessalonians coming to faith, but the Word of God was the active agent in their midst. He needed them to be sure of this. He would not always be around to encourage and exhort them, but the Word of our God stands forever (Is. 40:8).

The Word of God – when heard, received, and believed – actually *works* in those who believe it. It has power to transfer us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, to show us the glory of God in the face of Jesus, to begin transforming us into His image, and to equip us for every good work (Col. 1:13; 2 Cor. 4:6; 2 Cor. 3:12-18; 2 Tim. 3:15-17). This is because the Word of God is living and powerful and can penetrate the depths of our being to transform us from the inside-out (Heb. 4:12). Paul thanked God that His powerful Word had saving and transforming effects among the Thessalonians, and we should thank Him for that Word and its effects in our lives as well.

By the Word of God at work within us we can become imitators of Paul and Jesus and all those faithful churches of the Lord where the Word has been heard, received, and believed. We are one with all who thus live according to this Word, and although this may well put us at odds with those who do not believe, yet we can give them and their hostility to the Lord (v. 16), and continue growing in grace and in Jesus by the solid food of the Word of God.

We receive the Word of God as the true Word of the Lord, and not just words from men, when we welcome, believe, and act obediently according to its teaching. As we do, the Word proves its provenance and power by working effectually in us.

Prepare.

1. How do you experience the Word of God effectively working in you? What evidence have you seen lately of its power at work in your life?

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2. The Word of God is the indispensable power for salvation – both for being saved and for working out our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2.13). How would you counsel a new believer to begin making good use of the Word?

3. How can believers encourage one another in the Word of God, especially in the face of the opposition of the world?

Hear at least what Paul says to the Philippians: "Because to you it has been granted in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him but also to suffer in his behalf." And again to the Thessalonians, "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea." ... And you see them too, all employed in doing good. And so in those days grace worked effectually, and they also lived in good works. John Chrysostom (344-407 AD), *Commentary on Ephesians 6*

I need for Your Word to be at work in me today, O Lord, especially as I consider...

Pray Psalm 33.13-22

As you pray, make sure you are not trusting anything other than God and His Word, and that you are hoping in Him and His promises, and waiting on Him to direct your steps and empower your life.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 33.13-22 (*Truro: Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns*)

God from His throne looks down on men; He knows our works and made our hearts.

Let not Your Church, let none depend on strength or skill or human arts.

God watches those who fear His Name, who hope upon His grace and love;
He keeps their souls from death and shame who trust in Him Who reigns above.

God is our Helper and our Shield; upon us let Your grace descend!
We hope in You; to You we yield; we trust in Jesus to the end.

6 Glory and Joy

Pray Psalm 115.1.

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,
But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy,
Because of Your truth.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2.17-20.

Reflect.

1. What are some ways Satan might try to “hinder” you from following the Lord?
2. It is clear that Paul looked forward to the Lord’s coming again. Do you?

Meditate.

Paul regretted not being able to spend more time with the Thessalonians. He had to be rushed out of town for fear that he might be harmed by those who were agitating against him. But he remained with them *in heart*, which he demonstrates by writing this encouraging epistle.

Paul does not explain how *Satan hindered* him from returning to Thessalonica. Whatever it was, for Paul it was just another manifestation of the spiritual warfare in which we are continuously engaged (Eph. 6.10-20). Satan may have hindered Paul’s desire to return to Thessalonica, but the Lord was using this hindrance to keep Paul moving through Macedonia toward Athens and Corinth. Satan cannot frustrate the overall plan of God; even his apparent victories are made to work against him.

Paul looked forward to the day of the Lord’s return. He brimmed with hope and joy to think of seeing the Thessalonians there, in the presence of the Lord. They were his *glory* in the sense that their conversion to Christ and perseverance in the faith were evidence of the Lord’s work and presence with Paul. The Thessalonians were his *joy* because he saw them safely enfolded with him in the arms of Jesus forever. The Christian’s joy is in the presence of Jesus, where, having received our *crown of rejoicing*, we sing and praise and give thanks continually. How wonderful to think of seeing people dear to us there, and those we have led to Christ or nurtured in Him.

Prepare.

1. Do you think it’s important that Christians should look forward to the day of Christ’s return? How might we do that?
2. Paul saw the glory of God in the lives of those he served with the Gospel. Do you expect to see the glory of God in your work in your Personal Mission Field? What would that look like?
3. Of whom can you say, “For you are our glory and joy”? Why is it important that you tell them that?

We must, however, infer from this, that Christ’s ministers will, on the last day, according as they have individually promoted his kingdom, be partakers of glory and triumph. Let them therefore now learn to rejoice and glory in nothing but the prosperous issue of their labors, when they see that the glory of Christ is promoted by their instrumentality. The consequence will be, that they will be actuated by that spirit of affection to the Church with which they ought. John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on 1 Thessalonians 1.19*

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Lord, whom can I encourage today, like Paul encouraged the Thessalonians? Bring them to mind, Lord, and I...

Pray Psalm 115.1-18.

Ask the Lord to guard you against idols, distractions, or hindrances of the devil, and to shield and guide you as you seek to increase in His blessings and bless the people to whom He sends you.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 115 (*Plainfield: Nothing But the Blood of Jesus*)

Not to us, O God, not us, but unto Your Name give glory!
For Your love and faithfulness, ever to Your Name be glory!
Why should the nations cry, "Where is their God on high?"
You rule us, Lord, on high: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Idols made by men's own hand – ever to Your Name be glory –
see nor hear nor understand – ever to Your Name be glory!
They neither feel nor walk, nor can they speak or talk;
All those who serve them fall, but unto Your Name be glory!

All who trust in Jesus yield – ever to His Name be glory –
find in Him their help and shield: Ever to Your Name be glory!
O Israel, trust the Lord! He helps us evermore!
Fear Him obey His Word: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Blessings from our gracious Lord – ever to Your Name be glory –
will attend us evermore: Ever to Your Name be glory!
Bless all who fear You, Lord, all who obey Your Word,
All who Your Name adore: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Grant us, Savior, great increase: Ever to Your Name be glory!
Bless us with eternal peace: Ever to Your Name be glory!
Heaven and earth are Yours; let every soul adore
And bless You evermore: Ever to Your Name be glory!

7 Kingdom and Glory

Pray Psalm 48:9-11.

We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness,
In the midst of Your temple.
According to Your name, O God,
So is Your praise to the ends of the earth;
Your right hand is full of righteousness.
Let Mount Zion rejoice,
Let the daughters of Judah be glad,
Because of Your judgments.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20.

Reflect.

1. As Paul understood it, to what should our salvation lead? As those who are saved, to what are we called? What does that entail?
2. What can you learn from Paul's example about working with the people in your Personal Mission Field?

Meditate.

We learn from 1 Thessalonians 2 that it's good to review our salvation – how we came to be saved, what has happened as a result of being saved, and what the overarching objective of our salvation must be.

Paul has just received a glowing report from Timothy about the state of the church in Thessalonica. All is going well, and it is clear that the message of the Gospel took firm root with the Thessalonians. Their witness to Christ in words and deeds was going out throughout Greece and beyond.

Nevertheless, Paul felt it was important to remind them both of his manner of ministering among them and of their good beginning. He recalled his work among them to say how much he loved them – they were his “glory and joy” – because he had some more difficult words to offer in the chapters following this one, and he wanted them to know these were written in love.

He reminded them of the evidence of their faith because he wanted them to continue in it, to keep on pursuing their Kingdom-and-glory calling, and not to rest on their laurels. It's not enough to start well. Our calling to God's Kingdom and glory requires that we continue turning from sin, growing in and serving the Lord, and preparing constantly for Christ's return.

Both these purposes – the reminder of Paul's love and of their good beginning – will come together in chapters 3-5, as Paul urges them to continue and improve in all aspects of their faith.

Reading Paul's description of his ministry, we can gain some insights for working our own Personal Mission Fields. We must be sure we love the people to whom God sends us – like mothers and fathers love their children. We must work diligently at all the disciplines our Personal Mission Field requires: preparation, conversation, demonstrating Christ's righteousness and love, and seeking to be transformed and to transform our world for His glory. All the while, we must keep our eyes on the Lord and do our work as unto Him, seeking only His glory and to please Him in all we do. We have been entrusted with the Gospel, just as Paul was, and we may expect the Lord to use us for His Kingdom and glory to the extent that we are faithful and obedient in our calling.

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Prepare.

1. Meditate on Paul's reminder of his ministry among the Thessalonians. What can you learn from him to strengthen your work in your Personal Mission Field?
2. We are saved so that we might live for the Kingdom and glory of God. From 1 Thessalonians 1 and 2, how can you see that the Thessalonians were doing this?
3. Paul makes much about looking forward to and preparing for the coming of our Lord Jesus. What does this require of us?

He presents in a few words the sum and substance of his exhortations, that, in magnifying the mercy of God, he admonished them not to fail as to their calling. His commendation of the grace of God is contained in the expression, who hath called us into his kingdom. For as our salvation is founded upon God's gracious adoption, every blessing that Christ has brought us is comprehended in this one term. It now remains that we answer God's call, that is, that we shew ourselves to be such children to him as he is a Father to us. John Calvin (1509-1564), Commentary on 1 Thessalonians 2.12

You have called me to Your Kingdom and glory, Father, and I want to be faithful to that calling. Today remind me of Your love for me, and help me to...

Pray Psalm 48.1-14.

Beauty, joy, holiness, praise, rejoicing, telling – this is the life of those who are called to the Kingdom and glory of God. Ask the Lord to bring more of these attributes and practices into your life today.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 48 (*Cwm Rhondda: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*)

Great is God, now greatly praise Him in the city of the Lord.
Holy she, His lovely mountain, great and glorious by His Word!
God her King is great within her, He, her Stronghold ever sure!
He, her Stronghold ever sure!

Earthly kings, amazed and wond'ring, look upon the Church with fear.
See them flee in dread and anguish, knowing that the Lord is near.
For the city of the Savior God will keep forevermore!
God will keep forevermore!

For Your grace and lovingkindness we proclaim Your matchless worth!
As Your Name is, great and boundless, let Your praise fill all the earth.
Let Your people sing rejoicing for the judgment of Your truth;
For the judgment of Your truth.

Walk about the blessed city, see her beauty, see her power.
Count her ramparts, filled with glory, look on ev'ry mighty tower.
Tell her glory to the nations: God will guide her evermore;
God will guide her evermore!

*1 Thessalonians 2
1 and 2 Thessalonians*

Questions for reflection or discussion

1. For Paul, “Kingdom and glory” defined the overarching objective and framework of our salvation. Explain.
2. How can you be a better “mother” and “father” to the people in your Personal Mission Field?
3. Suggest some ways believers can help one another to keep focused on and preparing from the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Why is it important that we do this?
4. Paul commended the Thessalonians for hearing, receiving, welcoming, and believing the Word of truth. How can their example guide your own approach to reading and studying God’s Word?
5. What’s the most important lesson you’ve learned from this study? How are you working to implement that lesson in your walk with and work for the Lord?

For prayer:

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

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We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.