

2 THESSALONIANS 1  
1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS



T. M. Moore  
*A Scriptorium Study from The Fellowship of Ailbe*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

*2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians*

2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians  
Copyright 2019 T. M. and Susie Moore  
The Fellowship of Ailbe  
[www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org)

*Except as indicated, Scripture taken from the New King James Version. © Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All psalms for singing adapted from The Ailbe Psalter. All quotations from Church Fathers from Ancient Christian Commentary Series, General Editor Thomas C. Oden (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press).*

## 2 Thessalonians 1: Introduction

The beginning of 2 Thessalonians sounds a lot like the beginning of 1 Thessalonians. The church is still strong in its faith and witness. Paul continues boasting about them and praying for them. He urges them to focus on the return of Jesus and to keep on keeping on in their faith.

But the situation in Thessalonica has worsened. Not only has the pressure from unbelievers continued, but now false teachers have arisen and are trying to undercut the believers' faith by misleading them about the second coming of Jesus.

Paul will address this problem soon enough. For now, in 2 Thessalonians 1, he simply wants to remind them of and renew them in the grace of God.

Please visit our website, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org), to discover the many other resources available to serve your needs. The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Visit our website also to subscribe to our thrice-weekly devotional newsletter, *Crosfigell*, or our daily *Voices Together* devotional and prayer guide.

If you find these studies, or any of our other resources, helpful, we hope you will consider making a contribution to help support our work. You can do so 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.

T. M. Moore, Principal  
[tmmoore@ailbe.org](mailto:tmmoore@ailbe.org)

## 1 Grace and Peace

*Pray Psalm 133.1.*

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

*Read 2 Thessalonians 1.1, 2.*

*Reflect.*

1. What is grace? Why is this the first thing churches and believers need?
2. How is the peace that comes from God different from other forms of peace?

*Meditate.*

God's priority for His people and His churches can be summed up in two words: grace and peace.

More than a large campus with many staff, programs, and facilities, God wants His churches to know grace and peace.

More than large numbers of worshipers, or a fine worship band, or an expansive missions budget, God wants His churches to know grace and peace.

Grace is the disposition of love and favor with which God looks upon His people. It is also an indwelling power – the power of the Holy Spirit – whereby God is at work within us, transforming us into the image of Jesus Christ, knitting us to one another as members of His Body, and making us willing and able to enter His pleasure and do all His will.

Peace is the condition of resting in the Lord that ensues where grace obtains. God's peace is a peace you just cannot fully understand, because those who have it can rest in even when the world around them is closing in or falling apart. The peace of God is in fact the Prince of peace, in whom our lives had been hidden in the presence of God.

Grace and peace: What more could anyone want?

And yet how easily we become distracted by all manner of secondary matters, so that our churches become fragmented, our mission is compromised, and we resort to the ways of the world in seeking to do the will of God.

The church in Thessalonica, which had begun so well in the Lord, was finding the grace of God obstructed and its peace disturbed by false teachers who were more interested in their agenda than in the Kingdom and glory of God.

The roles and characters have changed somewhat in our day, but the problem remains the same: People with agendas other than that of the Lord are trying to make the church after their own image.

And what we need today more than all these outward evidences of human-driven agendas is revival and renewal in the grace and peace of the Lord.

*2 Thessalonians 1*  
*1 and 2 Thessalonians*

*Prepare.*

1. In what sense was the Thessalonian church – or is any church – *in* God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? Should this affect the way we think about what we should be doing?
2. How would you explain the grace of God to an unbelieving friend?
3. What makes the peace of God so desirable?

*...by a Church in God and Christ is meant one that has not merely been gathered together under the banner of faith, for the purpose of worshipping one God the Father, and confiding in Christ, but is the work and building as well of the Father as of Christ, because while God adopts us to himself, and regenerates us, we from him begin to be in Christ. John Calvin (1509-1564), Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 1.1*

*Lord, make me a vessel of your grace and peace today. Help me especially to...*

*Pray Psalm 133.*

Pray for your church – its leaders, members, and visitors – that the grace and peace of the Lord might flourish there.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 133** (*Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara: Children of the Heavenly Father*)

O behold, how sweet, how pleasant, when the brethren dwell together;  
All in unity abiding find God's blessing there presiding.

Like the precious oil of blessing flowing down on Aaron's vestment,  
God's anointing rests forever where His people dwell together.

Like the dew of Hermon's fountain falling down on Zion's mountain,  
So the blessing of the Savior dwells where unity finds favor.

## 2 Growing and Abounding

*Pray Psalm 124.8.*

Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth.

*Read 2 Thessalonians 1.3.*

*Reflect.*

1. Are we “bound” to pray for our fellow believers? What does that mean?
2. In what sense do we hope to “obtain” a salvation which we already possess?

*Meditate.*

The progress of the church in Thessalonica moved Paul to pray even more for them. We’re not sure how he learned about conditions among the believers there, but they were sufficiently troubling to lead him to write this second epistle. We’ll take a closer look at those troubles a bit later.

At the same time, the faith of the believers in Thessalonica, though they were struggling against false teaching, remained strong and growing.

Paul said he was “bound to thank God always” for the Thessalonians. The Greek says, “we *ought* always to thank God.” His gratitude to God was because of their continuing faith and growth in the Lord. Their faith was growing “exceedingly.” *Super-growing* is what the Greek says. What would have been the *evidence* (Heb. 11.1) of that? More works of love toward one another. Continuing boldness in their witness. Faithful submission to church leaders. Constancy in prayer. Continuing sanctification of believers and the church as a whole. We should all want such *super growth* in our faith.

Paul was especially grateful that the Thessalonians were continuing in love for one another. Love is the key indicator of discipleship (Jn. 13.15) and the mark of a healthy, growing church (Eph. 4.16). Their abounding in love toward one another drew out constant prayers of thanksgiving from Paul, because here was the evidence that his labors were bearing fruit. He was glad for the growth and witness of the Thessalonians. And he was glad to see that his work there had not been in vain.

*Prepare.*

1. Why is it a good idea to give thanks to God for evidence of growth in our fellow believers?
2. What would *super growth* look like in your church? In the churches in your community? In your own walk with and work for the Lord?
3. Meditate on John 13.15 and Ephesians 4.16. Why must abounding in love be our goal as believers and churches? Are all the various ministries of your church focused on helping believers increase in love?

*And how, you say, can faith increase? It does so when we suffer something horrible for the sake of faith. It is a great thing for faith to be solidly established and not to be carried away by some sophistry. But when the winds assail us, when the rains burst upon us, when a violent storm is raised on every side and the waves follow upon one another, that fact that we are not shaken is a proof that faith grows, grows abundantly and becomes more exalted. John Chrysostom (344-407 AD), Homilies on 2 Thessalonians 2*

2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians

O Lord, be by my side today, and help me to increase in faith and love as I...

Pray Psalm 124.

As you pray, know that the Lord is on your side throughout this day. Let this embolden you to seek the Lord for great things.

Sing to the Lord.

**Psalm 124** (Neumark: *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee*)

If You had not been with us, Jesus –  
Let all who love You say with pride –  
When foes rose up to fright and seize us,  
They would have swallowed us alive!

*Refrain v. 8*

Our help is in Your Name, O Lord,  
Who made creation by Your Word.

When all their anger flared against us,  
The flood would us have swept away;  
Torrents and waters sore had drenched us,  
Were not You all our hope and stay!

*Refrain*

Blessed be the Lord who has not given  
Us to our foes to be devoured.  
We shall escape and rise to heaven  
By His eternal grace and power.

*Refrain*

### 3 God's Righteous Judgment

*Pray Psalm 28.7.*

The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;  
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,  
And with my song I will praise Him.

*Read 2 Thessalonians 1.4-6.*

*Reflect.*

1. What is the *righteous judgment* of God, and how does that apply to believers?
2. The writer of Hebrews says that faith includes *evidence* (Heb. 11.1). What *evidence* does Paul cite here of the faith of the Thessalonians?

*Meditate.*

Part of the *persecutions and tribulations* believers have to deal with take the form of false teaching. False teaching appeals to us, either because it seems to answer nagging questions, or it offers some shortcut or sure-fire way to more temporal happiness. But false teaching robs us of the true joy, peace, and power of our salvation and encourages us to seek Jesus for ourselves, rather than for His glory. Only as we patiently look to Jesus and have faith in His Word can we bear up under the attacks of false teaching and other forms of tribulation.

It takes *patience and faith* to endure all kinds of persecutions and tribulations, including false teaching. But such patience and faith come only from God as a form of His *righteous judgment* on behalf of His people. We must not always associate judgment with condemnation. Sometimes, judgment simply refers to making a decision and taking an action that allows righteousness to be manifest. Paul saw that the Thessalonians were able to persevere in patience and faith because God determined that they should do so, that they may be *counted worthy of the kingdom of God*. This perseverance as *manifest evidence* of their faith and of the grace of God at work in them.

Their continuing faithfulness was a model of a church living as a sign and outpost of the Kingdom of God, a model to emulate, which is why Paul continued boasting about them to other churches.

And as *righteous* as it was for God to enable them to bear up and remain faithful amid persecutions and false teaching, it is equally *righteous* for God to bring His judgment to bear against those who troubled them (v. 6). We'll have a closer look at this in our next installment.

*Prepare.*

1. What would be some examples of *manifest evidence* that believers should demonstrate as proof of their faith? What about local churches?
2. What are the keys to recognizing false teaching? Why do we need patience and faith to resist false teaching?
3. What does Paul mean that God will *repay with tribulation those who trouble you*? When will He do that? Why should we take hope in this?

*Paul, however, declares on the other hand, that as God thus spares the wicked for a time, and winks at the injuries inflicted upon*

2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians

*his people, His judgment to come is shewn us as in a mirror. For he takes for granted that it cannot but be that God, inasmuch as he is a just Judge, will one day restore peace to the miserable, who are now unjustly harassed, and will pay to the oppressors of the pious the reward that they have merited.* John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 1.6*

*Strengthen me, Lord, that I may have patience and faith to endure every trial and affliction, so that I may be...*

*Pray Psalm 28.*

Use this psalm to lead you in thinking about the day ahead, that you may commit each activity in it, in patience and faith, to serving the Lord with joy.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 28** (*Angel's Story: O Jesus, I Have Promised*)

I cry to You, our Savior, O, be not deaf to me!

Lord, speak to me with favor, lest I should dying be.

Hear now my supplications when for Your help I cry;

Receive these, my oblations, before Your throne on high.

Lord, count me not among those who walk in sinful ways;  
With words of peace their tongue glows while evil fills their days.  
Your works they disregard, Lord, while evil fills their hands;  
Destroy them by Your Word, Lord, and let them no more stand.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus, for He will hear our prayer.  
His strength protects and shields us with mercy and with care.  
In You our heart rejoices; You help us by Your Word.  
To You we raise our voices to praise and thank You, Lord.

Our strength are You, O Savior, our strong defense and sure;  
Anointed with Your favor, we rest in You secure.  
Save us, and bless us, Jesus, upon us turn Your face;  
With shepherd's care, Lord, keep us forever in Your grace.

## 4 When Jesus is Revealed

*Pray Psalm 96.11-13.*

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;  
Let the field be joyful, and all that *is* in it.  
Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice  
before the LORD.  
For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.  
He shall judge the world with righteousness,  
And the peoples with His truth.

*Read 2 Thessalonians 1.7-10.*

*Reflect.*

1. God's judgment works two ways at the return of Jesus Christ. How would you describe each?
2. Many people today choose to keep the Lord out of their lives. Why is their eternal punishment just?

*Meditate.*

Paul needed to be as explicit as possible concerning the coming of the Lord, since, as we shall see, some false teachers had been troubling the Thessalonians by saying that Jesus had already come and, oops, you missed it (2 Thess. 2.1, 2).

In his first epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul pointed to the return of Jesus as our great hope. When He comes, those who believe will be relieved of all their troubles and gathered together with all the saints from every age to dwell with the Lord forever. Here, Paul refers to that great hope as *rest* (v. 7). We know something about that rest even now, as we enjoy the peace that passes understanding and rejoice in the hope of glory. But this rest is but a foretaste of the eternal, glorious rest that awaits us with the Lord.

The fate of those who, in this life, choose to live separate from God and His presence is altogether just (v. 6). For all eternity, they will simply be allowed to experience that choice, but with the added realization of what they have lost, forever. When Jesus comes, it will not be some secret, "believers-only" happening. We saw this already in 1 Thessalonians 4. Now Paul adds that He will come "with His mighty angels, in flaming fire." Those who in this life have chosen the way of unbelief and rebellion against God "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord." To be apart from the Lord forever is *everlasting destruction*. To be apart from the Lord here and now is also the path of destruction, rather than of life. Believers must make sure they are not diverted to that path in any way.

When Jesus comes again, He will "be glorified in His saints" because we shall see Him as He is and be like Him (1 Jn. 3.1, 2), in new, glorified and eternal bodies (1 Cor. 15.42-53). To say that we will *admire* the Lord (NKJV) is understatement; the word is literally, *be amazed* (θαυμάζω, to wonder or marvel at some event or object – to wonder, to be amazed, to marvel). We will marvel and wonder and praise and adore and worship and serve and enjoy Him increasingly, without diminishment, forever and ever. We will do this in ourselves and among our fellow saints. Hallelujah! Amen!

Shouldn't we be doing a bit more of this here and now?

2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians

Thus it is important that we guard true belief (v. 10), and that we allow nothing to divert us from the path of righteousness, peace, and joy which is the way of the Kingdom of God.

*Prepare.*

1. Do you think *rest* is a good idea to use in helping lost people understand the Gospel? Explain.
2. What does it mean to *marvel* or *be amazed* at Jesus? How might believers do this together? Why should they? Is this what corporate worship should be about? Explain.
3. How should the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory factor into our presentation of the Gospel?

*But where, I ask, will be the location of hell? Somewhere, I think, far removed from this world. For as the prisons and the mines are at a great distance from royal residences, so will hell be located far from this world. We aren't interested in finding its location but in escaping it. And just because God doesn't punish everyone here, don't doubt things to come. For God is merciful and patient. That is why he issues warnings and doesn't immediately cast us into hell.* John Chrysostom (344-407), *Homilies on Romans 31.4-5*

*Be always before me, Lord Jesus, always in my soul's vision, always my mind's fairest object of contemplation, always my heart's greatest desire, so that I...*

*Pray Psalm 96.*

As you pray, think ahead to the coming of our Lord Jesus, and all that Paul reveals concerning that great day. Pray for the Lord to give you strength to live for His glory, worship Him in holiness, and make you His faithful witness to the people around you.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 96** (*Mit FreudenZart: All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*)

Sing to the Lord! O, bless His Name!

All nations tell His glory!

Salvation's tidings loud proclaim;

Let earth rehearse His story!

For God is greatly to be praised;

His throne above all gods is raised –

Fear Him, and sing His glory!

All other gods are idols vain –

The Lord created heaven.

Splendor and strength with Him obtain;

To Him be glory given!

All fam'lies, praise this mighty Lord!

Give strength and glory to His Word;

Exalt the Lord of heaven.

Bring off'rings sweet to Him, our Lord,

In holy garments praise Him!

Tremble before Him, all the earth;

Among the nations raise Him!

The earth is fixed, it will not move;

The peoples will His justice prove –

Exalt the Lord and praise Him.

*2 Thessalonians 1*  
*1 and 2 Thessalonians*

Let heaven sing with lusty voice;  
Let earth and sea sing sweetly!  
Let fields and trees in Him rejoice,  
For He is coming swiftly  
To judge the world in righteousness,  
The peoples in His faithfulness –  
He comes; exalt Him greatly!

## 5 How to Pray for Christians

*Pray Psalm 149.1-4.*

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

And His praise in the assembly of saints.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;

Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise His name with the dance;

Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.

For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;

He will beautify the humble with salvation.

*Read 2 Thessalonians 1.11.*

*Reflect.*

1. How does Paul teach us to pray for our fellow believers?

2. What *calling* does Paul have in mind here (cf. 1 Thess. 2.12)? Do you acknowledge this as your calling?

*Meditate.*

More lessons from Paul on how to pray for our fellow believers, beginning with *always*. We get the sense from Paul's instruction (1 Thess. 5.16-18; Phil. 4.6, 7) that prayer should be an ongoing part of our lives, like breathing. Can we really *pray without ceasing* and *always* be in prayer with the Lord? Evidently we can, for even Jesus instructed us to do so (Lk. 18.1).

Each of us will learn to do this differently, of course. And praying always and without ceasing won't always find us talking to the Lord. Much of the time we'll simply be listening or alert to prompts that might lead us to give thanks for a kindness received, intercede for a friend or activity, sing a chorus of praise, or praise the Lord for some sudden delight. What we want is for prayer to become an atmosphere or environment for us, so that, while we're always in it, we're not always engaged in it in quite the same way.

We note three specific petitions Paul made for the Thessalonians. First, that, in the eyes of the Lord, they would be seen to be a people who were living worthy of their calling to the Kingdom and glory of God (1 Thess. 2.12). It's not enough that *they* think they're doing so, or that others might consider them worthy. We live before the Lord, and we must set our minds on Him, exalted in glory, and do everything we do as unto Him (Col. 3.1-3, 23, 24).

Second, Paul prayed that God would, out of His infinitely great pleasure, fulfill all His good promises to the Thessalonians. God has promised to bless His people and to use them as conduits of blessing to the world (Gen. 12.1-3). It pleases Him to relate to us in this way, and He is always readier to bless us with His goodness than we are to receive His blessings and bless others. It's good to have people praying like this for us.

Finally, Paul prayed that God would cause them to prosper in every good work of faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit and according to the guidance and counsel of His Word (Gal. 5.22, 23; 2 Tim. 3.15-17).

Here are three sound reasons to pray for our fellow believers. There is a larger reason for seeking these blessings for God's people, as we shall see when we consider verse 12. For now, let us allow this solid food to

*2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians*

shape our prayers, as we intercede for one another before the throne of grace.

*Prepare.*

1. If you were to develop a plan for praying without ceasing, what might that plan include?
2. Do pray for the Christians in your Personal Mission Field? How can this verse help you to improve those prayers?
3. If others were praying consistently for you to abound in every good work of faith with power, do you think that might bear fruit in your life? In what ways?

*That they may know that they need continual help from God, he declares that he prays in their behalf. When he says on this account, he means, in order that they may reach that final goal of their course, as appears from the succeeding context, that he would fulfill all the good pleasure, etc. John Calvin (1509-1564 AD), Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 1*

*Help me to be more constant and consistent in prayer, Lord, so that today I...*

*Pray Psalm 149.*

Pray for yourself and your fellow believers, to be faithful to the Lord and rejoice in His pleasure, and to carry out your Kingdom-and-glory calling in every aspect of your life.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 149** (*Toulon: I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*)

Sing to the Lord a glorious song and new!

Praise Him you people, to Whom praise is due!

Let us rejoice, let us be glad in Him

Who has created us and cleansed our sin.

Praise Him with dance, with tambourine and lyre!

To be so praised is God's one great desire.

Lord, beautify Your holy ones with grace;

Show us the mercy of Your saving face.

Sing to the Lord, exult with great delight!

Sing on your beds with joy to God by night!

Sing praise and take His Word into your hand;

Publish His grace and wrath in every land!

## 6 Grace, Growth, Glory

*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 2 Thessalonians 1.12.*

*Reflect.*

1. How is Jesus Christ glorified in us? How are we glorified in Him?
2. How does the grace of God work toward the ends of growth and glory?

*Meditate.*

In all his thoughts and work, Paul is never far from reviewing our calling in the Lord (1 Thess. 2.12). We do not seek to grow in the Lord merely for the sake of growing, that is, merely for our own benefit and satisfaction. The end of all our growth and service and perseverance is the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is glorified in us as He makes Himself known through all our words and deeds. His love, kindness, truth, goodness, and righteousness become evident in us as He increases and we decrease (Jn. 3.31).

We are glorified in Jesus as we shelter more completely in Him, fixing our minds on Him (Col. 3.1-3), communing always with Him (Matt. 11.28-30), and looking at our lives from the vantage point of His sovereign rule over all things (Eph. 2.6).

Thus, the growth we seek is not merely for our sake, but that Jesus might be known. How else to explain what happens in us as we overcome our natural self-centeredness and fear of people to become channels of living water to those around us (Jn. 7.37-39)? Our desire is that others might see Jesus, and seeing Him, come to love and serve Him as we do.

And this takes grace, which we may secure at every moment through the work of prayer (Heb. 4.16). Grace is both a *disposition* of God toward us – love, favor, generosity, supply – and the *work of His Spirit* within us, making us willing and able to do what accords with His pleasure. Salvation is all of grace at every stage of our great salvation. We must be faithful and obedient, but even our ability to do so is a work of grace. This is a great mystery, and as much as we can understand of it – our obedience – we must wholeheartedly embrace.

In all our pressing on, running our race, working out our salvation, and growing in the Lord, we must remember that the ultimate goal we seek is that Jesus Christ be exalted and obeyed (Ps. 2). And to this end, we cry out for grace, grace, and more grace for every aspect of our lives.

*Prepare.*

1. Is it possible to prepare to glorify Jesus in our daily life? Explain.
2. How can you know when your life is being glorified in Jesus? How do you experience this? How does it affect you?

2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians

3. How would you explain the concept of *grace* to an unbelieving friend?

*He calls us back to the chief end of our whole life—that we may promote the Lord's glory. What he adds, however, is more especially worthy of notice, that those who have advanced the glory of Christ will also in their turn be glorified in him. For in this, first of all, the wonderful goodness of God shines forth—that he will have his glory be conspicuous in us who are covered over with ignominy.* John Calvin (1509-1564 AD), *Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 1*

*Today, Lord, I want to grow in You and to glorify You in all my works and ways, so I need grace for...*

*Pray Psalm 115.*

Let this psalm lead you to meditate on Christ, exalted in glory. Call on Him to help you trust Him in every situation, and to pour out His blessings in and through you as you faithfully work your Personal Mission Field.

*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 Same Song, Second Verse

*Pray Psalm 48:8-11.*

As we have heard,  
So we have seen  
In the city of the LORD of hosts,  
In the city of our God:  
God will establish it forever.

*Selab*

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 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.*

*Reflect.*

1. In what ways is this chapter like 1 Thessalonians 1? Is it good to encourage one another in the same ways, again and again?
2. In what ways does this chapter differ from 1 Thessalonians 1?

*Meditate.*

In many ways, this chapter recalls 1 Thessalonians 1. Same commendations, same boasting to other churches, same indication of prayers and thanks for what God is doing in Thessalonica. It never hurts to affirm and encourage people for the same thing again and again.

The context is different though, because now Paul is addressing a specific kind of tribulation, namely, false teaching. He introduces his awareness of the problem here, but doesn't address it yet. Instead, he focuses on exhorting and encouraging the believers to press on in their calling from the Lord – that calling to the Kingdom and glory of God that he mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

The lesson is clear: Always remember what God has done for you and with you, and keep focused on what He yet wants you to become and do. Don't dwell on problems, trials, and persecutions! If you focus on such things, you will forget the blessings God has provided in the past and be reluctant to push ahead in your sanctification. This is precisely what was happening to the readers of the book of Hebrews.

Paul again emphasizes the grace of God at work among the Thessalonians. An infinite supply of grace to sustain, grow, and move us to obedience is available to those who look to the Lord and look forward to His coming again. At the return of Jesus, He will bring an end to all our trials and sufferings. That's not something we can manage in the present, so we need to rest in the Lord and wait on Him, all the while drawing on His grace to keep growing and serving in Jesus' Name.

*Prepare.*

1. Are you consistent in encouraging the believers in your Personal Mission Field? Can you see ways you

2 Thessalonians 1  
1 and 2 Thessalonians

might improve?

2. Why is false teaching a kind of persecution or tribulation (v. 4)?

3. Why is it important to focus our attention on unseen things to come rather than on the seen things of our present?

*For there is nothing here that is ours either in the action itself, or in the effect or fruit, for it is solely by the guidance of the Holy Spirit that our life is made to contribute to the glory of God. And the circumstance that so much fruit arises from this ought to be ascribed to the great mercy of God. In the mean time, if we are not worse than stupid, we must aim with all our might at the advancement of the glory of Christ, which is connected with ours.* John Calvin (1509-1564 AD) *Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 1*

*Thank You, Lord, for grace that is greater than all my sins, sufficient for my every need, and available to me today for...*

*Pray Psalm 48.*

Pray for your church, your shepherds, and the members of your congregation, that together you might become a presence of beauty, joy, and holiness in your community.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 48** (*Cwm Rhonda: 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!

*2 Thessalonians 1*  
*1 and 2 Thessalonians*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. We should encourage one another over and over about the same things. Why?
2. Paul looks at the second coming of Christ here from a different angle than in 1 Thessalonians. Explain.
3. Paul's burden is to remind the Thessalonians of God's grace – past and present – and to renew them in the promise that grace will be there when they need it in the days ahead. What is grace, and why is it so important to the life of faith?
4. Why is it just for God to consign unbelievers to eternal separation from Himself?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from this chapter? 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.

The Fellowship of Ailbe offers many opportunities for training, prayer, personal growth, and ministry. Visit our website at [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org) to learn more.

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.