



Stay on Target
Studies in 2 Thessalonians

Counted Worthy
2 Thessalonians 1
Lesson 6

Introduction

Since Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, false doctrines have permeated the church causing them to waver in their faith. Paul commended the Bereans for searching the scriptures when strange doctrines were introduced to them so see if they lined up with the scriptures before they accepted them. *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* KJV Acts 17:11 Paul addresses these destructive doctrines and restates the truth in order to help them **stay on target**. Paul's desire was to encourage their faith and love and correct the false doctrine that they had missed the rapture and were already in the Day of the Lord. It left them confused and they began to question when they would go to be with the Lord.

The persecutions that the church was experiencing was causing them to grow in their faith, and love more and more, but their hope was beginning to wane. In the first letter Paul speaks of their "work of faith," their "labor of love," and their "patience of hope." Here he refers to their faith and their love but does not say a word about their hope. That indicates the problem that this letter was written to correct. Paul has learned that they are still confused and uncertain about the coming of the Lord. Their hope is not clear. Many in the church have the same problem today, they do not have a clear view of what they are waiting for. Paul knows that if these believers do not have hope, it will ultimately undermine their "work of faith" and their "labor of love". When hope is lost, faith and love are soon lost as well.

Treasures of the Heart

. . . for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer . . .

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, **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, **5** which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; **6** since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, **7** and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,
12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.



A series of horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 15 lines.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10 _____

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less)

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10 _____

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Hope for Christ's return is an anchor in the midst of persecution and the motivation for holy living in the midst of a perverse world. The expectation of the **Day of the Lord** is the theme of 2 Thessalonians. Paul writes to correct false doctrine that has crept into the church. See if you can state Paul's correction about the **Day of the Lord**, and how they are to live daily. **State these truths in your own words.**

State a reference to the Day of the Lord.

How is it applied to daily living?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10 _____

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

Being counted "worthy" by God is never to be understood in the sense of earning God's approval by our goodness or efforts, but rather in the sense of pleasing Him in response to His love for us.

The Preachers Commentary

