

# **A Walk Through 2 Thessalonians**

## **Introduction**

Paul was ...

# A Walk Through 2 Thessalonians

## Chapter 1

'This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing. '

2 Thessalonians 1:1-3

Paul, Silas and Timothy are thrilled with the growing faith of the brothers and sisters in Thessaloniki. These believers are flourishing in their faith, and their love for one another is overflowing. Truly these members belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus. So the prayer is for them to receive grace and peace. Grace overcomes every difficulty. Grace carries the believer forward in the arms of Jesus, and the wonderful emotion felt is peace. We have peace with God and with one another. So Paul and company are excited. Faith in Jesus is growing in Thessaloniki.

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'We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you. '

2 Thessalonians 1:4-6

We encourage each other, praying and giving thanks. Persecution is hard, yet the Lord carries us through. He will restore, and He will redeem. He will bring justice for suffering too. He is working in us, and He is preparing us for His Kingdom too. He has our back.

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'And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him. '

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

God will provide rest for us all, when Jesus appears from heaven. He's bringing us home, and all who believe. But there is judgement coming for those who hate Him, who refuse to obey the gospel. Eternal destruction awaits people who hate God. We are longing to praise Him in person, bringing Him glory. And that glory will come, praise from all of us for all He has done and is doing. You are included - He is delighted with you. Keep following!

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'So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be

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honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.'

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

We are continually sustained because of others' prayer for us. God's grace makes it all possible, wrapped up in our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's prayer was that we'd be able to live a life worthy of God's call. Paul prays we will have the power to do anything the Lord prompts us to do. As we work, God is honored, and we get to share in the same honor. So pray for others too, in the same way. Pray that we would rejoice in the honor of following Christ. And seek His leading on what to do, and then do it! Our life is a wonderful balance between His grace, and our responding work.

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## Chapter 2

'Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call good and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. '

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Jesus is coming back soon, right on time. But the man of lawlessness will take his place in the temple first. The timing is perfect, and the Lord will keep us until He is ready! Praise and trust Him in the meantime.

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'Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. '

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

We live in a time where Holy Spirit is holding back the man of lawlessness. Antichrist will be revealed but only when the Lord is ready. So what is He doing? God is at work among the peoples of the world, declaring His good news in Christ, where people are restored to the Lord and God receives incredible glory. This "gospel" must go to every people, and then the end will come. So pray, give, join in, and make His name great among the nations!

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'This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth. '

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

This man will do the work of Satan, the counterfeit. He will demonstrate with power, miracles, and deception. His purpose and plan is somehow to thwart the restoration of God and man in the Kingdom. But for us we have a choice. We can worship the Lord God on high, bringing Him glory. To do so refutes the man of lawlessness. But it won't be easy to go against the grain. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you! In the end their reward is condemnation, while ours is fellowship and adoration of God forever.

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'With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.'

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17

Don't forget, the Lord will come for us, and in the meantime His grace and power will infuse us as we walk with Him. There's persecution and hardship, and Holy Spirit carries us through these as we follow and serve Him! Even so, we pray that God's grace and eternal hope will bring comfort and strength as you work and share for His glory!

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## Chapter 3

'Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer. '

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Paul asks for two things. He asks his dear brothers and sisters in Thessaloniki to pray for he and his entourage. He asks that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes. And we should pray the same, that the good news will continue to spread and be honored. The second request is that he and his team will be rescued from wicked and evil unbelievers. The gospel carries danger, because of those who feel threatened. We too must pray for the messengers to be protected.

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'But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we are confident in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we commanded you. May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ. '

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

These believers were being persecuted by unrelenting traditional jews, and yet they were thriving as a community. They carried the message of the cross and the power of the Spirit as they worked to serve Him and spread the message of the Kingdom. Paul prays for them, and trusts that God will strengthen them and guard them. He also knows that they were active to share their faith in ways that express the love of God. This work comes as a regular part of knowing Christ.

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'And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat." '

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

We must use our time well, doing the work before us, and not being idle. Paul commands the believers to continue working hard, doing work, and paying their way. Jesus followers are Jesus workers!

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'Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. '

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

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It's time for believers to get to work. Don't be idle, but be productive. Serve others, earn wages, care for others. And don't meddle. One part of faith is action, including employment and earning. Jesus calls us to work and serve.

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'As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good. Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. Don't think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister.'

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

Always do good. Even when it's hard and you're worn out. Keep doing good. Serve and work. Stay away from those who will not work. This isn't to punish, but it is to cause them to reconsider their not serving. They are brothers and sisters, and we must act in a way that helps them obey the Lord. Keep on serving!

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'Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all. Here is my greeting in my own handwriting—Paul. I do this in all my letters to prove they are from me. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.'

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

God is not wanting you to be peaceful. No, He is pouring into you His peace. It's personal. He is with you, and His peace will encourage you. He loves the relationship with you. And His peace is good for every situation! Likewise His grace is poured on you, for enabling you and carrying you through!