

II Thessalonians – First Chapter

v. 1 -2 – Paul’s standard greeting, still from him, Timothy and Silas. This is most likely a few months after the writing of I Thessalonians. Paul has gotten some additional information about what is going on there and he must respond with another letter. (50 or 51 a.d.)

v. 3 – Paul must thank God for their GROWING FAITH AND LOVE for one another.

v. 4 – Paul is able to hold them up as examples to other churches for their PATIENCE AND FAITH in PERSECUTIONS AND TRIBULATIONS they ENDURE.

v.5 – manifest token (the perceivable sign) of their attitude in persecutions and tribulations proves the judgment or acknowledgment of God of their worthiness of the kingdom of God for which they suffer. SUFFERING DOES NOT MAKE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THE KINGDOM. We don’t suffer to get into the kingdom, but how we go through our suffering can be proof of God by his grace and power working in us. Proof of the character of God built up in us or being built up by God’s mighty power, by His all sufficient grace.

James 1:2 –(ref.) count it all joy (exceeding joyful) when you fall into divers temptations, knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience. Let patience have her perfect (complete) work, that you may be perfect (complete) and entire (complete in every part), wanting nothing.

I Pet. 5:10 – (ref) God of grace, after you have suffered for a period, make you perfect (complete thoroughly; restore; prepare), establish, strengthen (confirm in spiritual knowledge and power), settle you.

Rom. 8:18 – glory to be revealed in us is greater than our suffering. II Cor. 12:10 I pleasure in infirmities for Christ sake, for when I am weak, then am I strong.

v. 6,7 – God will recompense the evil ones for the evil they have done against the anointed of the Lord; and the Lord will give his anointed ones rest. God pays.

v.8,9 – Those who 1) don’t know God and 2) obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ (rebel) will be punished with EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION (on going ruin) and EVERLASTING SEPARATION from the presence and glory of God—HELL. It can never be reversed.

10 – But the Lord will be glorified in his saints, who will dwell with him forever. It can never be reversed.

v.11,12 – Paul prayed that they might behave in ways consistent with their identities in the Lord, marked by goodness and powerful works of faith (MacArthur) That the name of the Lord may be GLORIFIED as they walk worthy.

Does my walk bring glory to God?