

2 Thessalonians chapter 1

What is it about the Thessalonians that Paul boasts about to the other churches [3-4]?

What makes us worthy of the Kingdom of God [5,11]? Does God promote or condone or ignore our suffering, persecution, and afflictions [5-8]? Does promised judgment “in the sweet by and by” adequately compensate for the pains we endure in the here and now?

What happens to the persecutors [6-9]? and the persecuted [7]?

2 Thessalonians chapter 2

If you faced persecutions and suffering because of your faith, and you heard that Jesus had already come back (but apparently somehow He missed you), how might you feel and what might you do? In his first letter to the Thessalonians Paul told them that the Day of the Lord would come like a thief in the night, what does he tell them about it this time [1-12]?

Do verses 5-6 suggest that the Thessalonians had some knowledge about this subject that we are missing?

After reassuring them what does he encourage them to do [13-17]?

2 Thessalonians chapter 3

In chapter 1 Paul suggested that there was value in their suffering, is that consistent with what he now asks them to pray for in verses 1-2? What command(s) is spoken of in verse 4?

Summarize the command(s) contained in verses 6-16. Why? is this for our protection? or is it to motivate change in the other person [14]? Practically (and perhaps politically), what should we do with people who are able but unwilling to support themselves?

Next week: 1 Timothy chapters 2, 3, and 4