

## 1 & 2 Thessalonians

### Lesson #11- Promise to the Persecuted

#### Memory Verse

**2 Thessalonians 1:11** (NKJV) 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,

Read first. **2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

#### Fresh Greetings (2 Thess. 1:1, 2)

**2 Thessalonians 1:1, 2** (NKJV) *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Probably written from near the same place and near the same time. Paul, Silvanus, [or Silas] and Timothy were all together*

Reason for the letter... They thought from the first letter Jesus was coming in a matter of months or a few years.

**1Th 4:15** *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are still living at the coming of the Lord, will not go before those who are sleeping.*

**\*1Th 4:17** *Then we who are still living will be taken up together with them into the clouds to see the Lord in the air: and so will we be forever with the Lord.*

**1Th 5:4** *But you, my brothers, are not in the dark, for that day to overtake you like a thief:*

**1Th 5:6** *So then, let us not take our rest as the others do, but let us be self-controlled and awake.*

*Some had left their farms and quit working.*

**\*2Th 3:10** *For even when we were with you we gave you orders, saying, If any man does no work, let him not have food.*

#### Paul's Thanksgiving (2 Thess. 1:3, 4)

**2 Thessalonians 1:3, 4** *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, <sup>4</sup> 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**, Paul's boasting is like a parent affirming their children.*

**Matthew 24:13** (NKJV) *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

**Job 2:3** (NKJV) *Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, ..."*

**\*Matthew 10:22** (NKJV) *And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*

**2 Timothy 2:3** (NKJV) *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 13:7** (NKJV) *bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

**\*2 Timothy 3:12** (NKJV) *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

**Act 14:22** *... and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

**Matthew 5:10–12** (NKJV)<sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* <sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.* <sup>12</sup> *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

#### Kenya: Church Attacks Kill 17 July 6<sup>th</sup>

At least 17 Christians were killed in simultaneous attacks on two churches near the Somali border on Sunday, July 1. A group of masked assailants launched grenades and opened fire with assault rifles on a Roman Catholic church and an African Inland Church located about two miles apart in Garissa, Kenya. In addition to the 17 killed, more than 40 people were wounded in the attacks.

#### North Korea: Bibles Fall Like Rain

On July 19, a balloon-launch team met near Paju, South Korea, to launch 30 balloons carrying New Testaments, Scripture verses and other gospel messages into North Korea. With a typhoon fast approaching the Korean peninsula, heavy rain and wind carried the balloons directly north into the isolated country.

#### Iran: Pastor's Sentence Upheld

Iran's Revolutionary Court recently upheld Pastor Farshid Fathi's six-year sentence for "political offenses," forcing him to complete a prison term that began more than 18 months ago. Farshid was arrested in December 2010 for his Christian work, but authorities continue to cast his activities as political offenses. He has become much beloved among inmates in Tehran's Evin prison, according to Elam Ministries.

### Suffering as a Sign of the End (2 Thess. 1:5, 6)

<sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

**Revelation 16:7** (NKJV) *And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."*

**John 15:18–19** (NKJV) *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

**\*John 17:14** (NKJV) *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

**John 16:2** (NKJV) *They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*

### Fire and Destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9)

<sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

**Rev 21:8** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

**\*Jude 1:7** *Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the **vengeance** of eternal fire.*

**Deu 32:41** *If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render **vengeance** to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.*

### Glorifying Christ (2 Thess. 1:10-12)

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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.

### Do All For His Glory

**1 Cor 10:31** *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

**Rom 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

**1 Pet 4:11** *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- Let us thus think often that our only business in this life is to please God. - Brother Lawrence