

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto 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 meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5. *Which* is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus

shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil 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 ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 2

NOW we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord

Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3. Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all

power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13. But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

CHAPTER 3

FINALLY, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

6. Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

16. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

¶ The second *epistle* to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

This letter was written just a short time after I Thessalonians, to correct some false teachings that had come to the church relative to the coming of Christ. I Thessalonians deals with the Rapture—Christ’s return in the air for His Church; while II Thessalonians deals with the revelation—Christ’s return with the Church to the earth, to defeat His enemies and establish His Kingdom. The “Day of the Lord” referred to in II Thessalonians is that period of tribulation that comes to the earth after the Church has been raptured. I Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9 clearly teach that the Church will not go through the tribulation. As Paul is writing this second letter to the church at Thessalonica, the church was going through terrible persecution (II Thessalonians 1:4-7), and some of the believers thought they were already in the Day of the Lord—that awful time of tribulation promised in the Old Testament. Paul writes this letter to explain God’s program for the ages, and to encourage these suffering Christians to remain true to the Lord. He points out three great purposes behind their suffering in chapter 1: Suffering helps one to grow (verses 3-5); suffering prepares one for glory (verses 6-10); suffering glorifies Christ today (verses 11,12). This entire chapter is a great encouragement to us, as believers, in these trying days. The world is going downhill at a very high rate of speed. Men do not want to hear the Word of God. It seems the wicked are prospering, while faithful Christians are suffering. It seems that God has forsaken His own. Not so, says Paul. We, as believers, can rest in the fact that God is at work in the world and will one day vindicate His own and bring vengeance on those who have not received His Son as their own personal Saviour.

In chapter 2 Paul explains about the Day of the Lord and the man of sin. He says that certain events must take place before this day of wrath and judgment can come to the world. Paul encourages the Christians there to keep on working, and the same challenge rings forth to us today. Read II Timothy 3 and 4 to see what our responsibilities are as believers in Christ in these latter days.

Finally, in chapter 3, Paul exhorts the Christians at Thessalonica to change their ways. It is not enough to know about the coming of Christ, or even to believe it; we must practice godly living in our daily lives as if the second coming of Christ will occur at any moment. If we really believe He is coming again, then in all things we should live as if we may see Him even today. His coming is imminent! The challenge to believers in Christ is to look up, for our redemption

draweth nigh.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly” (Proverbs 16:22).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 27 (found on page 6).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Traditional French Carol

As vast numbers of angels swiftly descended toward earth through the star sprinkled sky, the leading angel halted them with a sign. They hovered with folded wings over a silent field near Bethlehem. “There they are,” said the leading angel, “the humble shepherds who have been chosen by God to receive our message. It will be the most wonderful news that mortal man has ever received. Are you ready with your great angelic chorus?”

The leading angel drifted slightly downward so that he could be seen by the shepherds below. They were terrified! Each one of them covered his face in the brilliance of the light but earnestly listened with awe as the vision before them began to speak in their own language:

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Instantly surrounding the angel was the brilliant heavenly host, and echoing through the sky was the most beautiful singing that the shepherds had ever heard, exulting and praising God for the long-awaited gift of His Son. They made haste to see the Savior with their own eyes.

The Bible teaches that angels are the ministering servants of God and that they are continually being sent to help and protect us, the heirs of salvation. Certainly their most important task, however, was this momentous occasion announcing Christ’s arrival on earth!

Although little is known of its origins, this inspiring 18th century French carol has become a universal favorite.

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,*

*and the mountains, in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.*

*See Him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
with us sing our Savior's birth.*

*Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

BIRTHDAY TODAY

BARRON WILLIAMS

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1887

THE BIRTHDAY OF JACK HYLES' MOTHER.

One of the great influences of Dr. Hyles' life was his godly mother. He was raised in poverty. His mother worked for fifty cents a day and walked two miles to the job to provide the very necessities of life for him. She taught him things about life and character building. He says he will be indebted for eternity and will express his gratitude for eternity and pay his debt for eternity to his mother for her influence on his life. Thank God for your mother today. Pray for her. Sit down and write her a letter. Call her long distance. Go see her.

TODAY IS THE BIRTHDAY OF MARY TODD LINCOLN.

1897

THE BIRTHDAY OF DREW PEARSON.

1862

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 27 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: THE SCRIPTURES CLAIM

() II Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

() II Timothy 3:17

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

() I Peter 1:10

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

() I Peter 1:11

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

() II Peter 1:21

For the Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.