## All verses are copied from <a href="https://biblehub.com/">https://biblehub.com/</a> in King James.

2 Thessalonians was written by Paul around 51-52 AD. As a brief recap when Paul, Silas and Timothy introduced Christ to the Thessalonians they received it with great joy but not so the local Jews who would not believe. A riot ensued within the first several weeks of Paul's teaching and Paul along with his fellow disciple fled to Berea. Life was challenging for believers in Thessalonica as false teachers came and caused confusion, and many questions came up about "the Day of the Lord", "Rapture", and what would happen to those already dead.

When Paul arrived in Berea he received a much different welcome from the Jewish people and the Greeks.

Acts 17: These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Believers are often eager when first introduced to Christ but as the walk of obedience continues some will fall away or at least lose their enthusiasm. When that happens Satan will attach the weak, so it is imperative that the strong in Christ come along side those brothers and sisters who are struggling and encourage them in the Lord. 2 Thessalonians is Paul's attempt to do just that.

#### 2 Thessalonians 1

#### **Greetings from Paul, Silas and Timothy**

(1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Philemon 1:1-3)

1Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

My apologies for making such a big deal out of a difference that to some is grammatical to others foundational. That is the word in verse 1; "church". If we go to the Strong's Concordance, we will find that word is used in two ways. One is in a fleshly or human sense and that is "an assembly or congregation" which would be what we think of when we think of a local group that gathers to worship something or someone and are all based on man's interpretation of whatever the focus of worship is on.

Then the other meaning or usage is capitalized as it is a proper noun depicting something that is Spiritual in all its aspects even though it is made up entirely of human beings and that is the Church capital C, also called the Bride of Christ or the Body of Christian Believers. I am pretty sure we all understand the difference and why that difference is so important in our studies.

Transliteration: ekklésia

Phonetic Spelling: (ek-klay-see'-ah)

Definition: an assembly, a (religious) congregation

Usage: an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole

body of Christian believers.

### **2**Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The author of Grace is God, it is a decision He made and when I say, "He" I am including the Trinity the God Head, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Each have a specific role in how God extends this Grace to mankind.

#### Strong's defines Grace as:

Phonetic Spelling: (khar'-ece)
Definition: grace, kindness

God is not required to extend any "kindness" to mankind, it is an act of His Will, with no mandated response from man. The response from man to God in relationship to God's Will is found in another gift from God to man and that is "free will". God has allowed man "free will" to love God or to reject God. God knew before He created man that many would reject Him and His gift of "Grace" or "Kindness". We have a choice of whether or not to embrace the Creator God or not. Choose wisely!

#### Thanksgiving for Their Faith

(1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Philippians 1:3-11; Colossians 1:3-14)

<u>3</u>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;

Even under persecution by the local Jews these Christians continued to walk in obedience as their "faith growth exceedingly and charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."

Thessalonica was a major seaport in Macedonia (modern day Greece) and a major Roman Road. It was a perfect place to minister to people passing through and the believers there ministered in that arena even against the push back from the local Jewish Synagogue.

4So 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:

The believers in Thessalonica were under constant attack by their own countrymen, as it seems to be going on today. There are vast number of American's and even so-called Christians that are siding with the evil of this world. Astonishing compliant in not only of closing churches at the governments demand but now

encouraging people to take the vaccine putting their lives and hope in the hands of man instead of Christ.

Satan has a map of each of us and our weaknesses, and if God allows Satan to he can sift us.

Jesus told Peter about Satan's request of God about the sifting Peter.

### Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Our only hope is in Christ, the Risen Savior of the world. I suggest we abandon all hope in America and put that hope in Christ and Him alone. He is coming soon for His Bride and we must endeavor to walk in righteousness as He has said:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

#### **Christ's Coming**

<u>5</u>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:

There is judgement coming, that is a promise from God. Those who chose to walk in righteousness and are persecuted for that walk will see their enemies put to trial and judged according to God's Righteousness. We are required by God to stand in unity with Christ against evil even if that stance bring persecution.

Those who persecute you cannot see it but will received that which they deserve from God at judgement.

Philippians 1: 27Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. 29For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; 30Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

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

God is Righteous and His Righteousness requires that He judge those who persecute the Bride of Christ and His Son.

#### **April 17, 2021**

7And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"To you who are troubled with us" is a reference to the Tribulation or pre-Tribulation saints; those believes who are persecuted by the world, those who hate God.

There are two phases of punishment that God will deal to those who persecute the Church and His Son. The first is all the plagues and death that God will send on the earth during Tribulation. The types and manner of tribulation that those who hate God will suffer are diverse and painful during the Tribulation. The real pain starts in the second half of Tribulation called the Great Tribulation.

Mankind will suffer as never before, but that is only the prelude to eternal judgement of the adversary. At the end of the millennium, the Great White throne judgement will commence, opening the gates to eternal damnation and eternal punishment for which there is no return.

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

The "who" in verse 9 are of course those who reject the Savior Jesus Christ for whatever reason and in whatever misguided religion or no religion.

There is no religion or church that has ever or ever will save one single human soul. Salvation comes only from Christ and His Blood on the Cross and His Resurrection. There is no Jesus plus anything, any religion any church any pastor any teacher. It is

Jesus and Him alone that brings salvation to the individual and to the world. All those other things may point to the source of Salvation; churches, pastors, teachers, fellow believers, but they are not salvation in themselves if they are True to the Word of God, then they are messengers of the Good News.

Our lives, the way we speak, the way we treat others should all be an open book of love towards one another. It is observing a true Christian's life that causes non-believers to notice something different. If we look like the world and talk like the world and act like the world, why would anyone in the world say; I want to be like you all. They are like us if we are in the world and look like the world, talk like the world and act like the world. If we look like the world we are failing in our obedience to Christ.

10When 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.

Every day is a Good Day to Glorify Jesus in we His Bride, members of that relationship worldwide as we daily celebrate His triumphant resurrection from the Grave. The first resurrected to enter eternity from life as a human being; transformed by God to His eternal state.

11Wherefore 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:

We have brothers and sisters in Jesus around the world the other parts of the Bride of Christ that are enduring real persecution for their beliefs. It is a righteous commandment by Christ that we love them and pray for them as Paul is stating. We can pray that God would count them worthy of the calling on their persecution to Glorify God with their very lives. We can pray that same prayer for our fellow countrymen and woman that we would be counted worthy of any persecution we may endure before Jesus returns. We too one day may suffer persecution; it is often when things land on our own doors step that we finally realize the pain and suffering others have endured for years. Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world that they would feel the might arm of God in their situation and not faint but show themselves worthy of the calling of Christ Jesus.

## 12That 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.

We can barely take a step in our walk with Christ that is not first born out in Grace. None of us could even utter the name of Christ due to our sins if it were not for Grace that "favor" that God has shown us. We are nothing but sinners, saved by Grace. Ephesians 2: 7That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

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