2Thess #138

Thorns and Thistles was the curse.

Please keep my sister-in law, Norma in prayer. She has had to deal with a blood-clot and a knee surgery.

Pick it back up in 2Thessalonians chapter two.

We will begin a very important series that is highlighted in the end of 2Thess chapter 2;

2Thes 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers *and sisters* beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

[2Th 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/14/s_1118014) It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To obtain the glory speaks to the highest levels of SM – the Super-grace life.

[2Th 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/15/s_1118015) So then, brothers *and sisters,* stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

[2Th 2:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/16/s_1118016) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

God in HIS grace plan has loved us and has given us eternal security – both statements are written in the aorist tense, meaning it was already done for you.

/[2Th 2:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/17/s_1118017) comfort and strengthen your hearts in **every good work and word**.\

Good work, is used in terms of walking in the NEW NATURE – the fruit of the Spirit.

Notice he includes the WORD in that statement, staying in the framework of truth – BD.

The Apostle Paul is saying get back on track toward accurately handling the word so that you grow to maturity and produce something eternal in your life.

Not a works program from your flesh.

/The Believers at Thessalonica had begun in the right direction and most understood the teaching of accurate Bible Doctrine. The few who had accepted false teaching on eschatology, had begun to infect many. Once that creeps in, all of your doctrine and core faith takes a hit. It sets the Bel up for confusion and doubt which in turn brings in apathy and peeling away from God.\

Sometimes it leads back to a religious set of beliefs, which can wipe out any momentum in the spiritual life.

As we have recently learned these types of religious Christians are very difficult to reach and bring back to the truth.

The Apostle Paul is telling them to get back to the accuracy of the WORD – continue to grow in God’s grace and knowledge and obtain the full glory of what GOD called you to do!

Your life will produce something in the end.

It may have a few gray areas and times of failure and apathy, that is normal. But what is the big picture that your life represents?

After salvation what have you done with the time, talent and treasure GOD has given you - that is the bigger question?

Go into the OT – Genesis chapter 3 RF.

/Heb 6:7 For **ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and produces vegetation useful** to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but **if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless** and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.\

Your soul structure was designed to absorb and become a library and the driving engine for thoughts, creativity and worship as well as pertinent information for norms and standards.

What that soul produces, depends upon what is washing over it habitually and how you have kept your soul within a healthy balance.

 REPEAT

The term thorns and thistles or even just the use of the word thorns - is often times, in biblical terminology, an analogy of a life which is drying up. It can be used to view difficulties and challenges. Many times, it can point to discipline.

Remember something, there is a first mentioned principle, within good theology. It is core to good Biblical Hermeneutics.

This teaches us to always view a certain phrase, doctrine or word as the first time it appears in scripture. Basically, telling us to view it in that context first before making any other assumption.

 REPEAT

How it is first used in the scriptures is the standard…unless otherwise directed by other scripture and the accuracy of the original language. By that I mean, some first mentioned principles simply have layers or deeper meanings. But more often than not, they point directly back to their first definition in some form or fashion.

 REPEAT

We are going to close this chapter of 2Thessolinians out with a deeper study into the principle of THORNS in relation to how that touches the lives of all Bels.

Look at what happened after the fall in the garden;

Gen 3:8 Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

/Sin is a form of death or separation and it places the Bel outside of intimacy (fellowship) with God. GOD still seeks us out and wants us to reveal ourselves to HIM. Cleansing any sin takes the power of GOD and the free will of fallen man. GOD will never force HIMSELF upon us, HE will await your positive volition first. The Bel in sin often covers up and hides away.\

Both spiritually and emotionally.

The man and woman covering themselves up is a works program from the flesh.

[Gen 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/9/s_3009) Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

The pre-incarnate Christ is in view here and HE knows full well everything and where everyone hides. This is a call to personal responsibility – to use the freedom of thought and free will, given in God’s grace plan and reveal yourself to HIM.

To adjust to the justice of God. HE wants us to open ourself up fully and give it over to HIM.

/[Gen 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/10/s_3010) He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and **I was afraid** because I was naked; so **I hid myself.”**

Fear, doubt and anxiety did not exist until sin entered the picture. Every time we hide away and cover up sin, we bring in a darkness and drought into the soul.\

When a Christian continues in that pathway away from God’s grace plan, they begin to have a drought in the soul.

It dries up all the abundance of peace and confidence they once had with GOD.

We have to take responsibility for our own decisions.

TLJC is the only cleansing agent for sin – and HE is allowing this to play out as one of the truly great lessons, on how sin separates us from HIM and spirals out of control quickly into chain sinning.

[Gen 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/11/s_3011) And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

[Gen 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/12/s_3012) The man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me some of *the fruit of* the tree, and I ate.”

Now we have the blame game – because a Bel remaining in sin is now on an emotional rollercoaster.

Arrogance has now taken the wheel.

Verse 12 shows us - the man pointing at Christ, and the blessing that was given to him by Christ (woman), and saying *‘its kind of your fault LORD’.*

Don’t miss that in verse 12.

[Gen 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/13/s_3013) Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this *that* you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The woman won’t take responsibility either, she was either ignoring the protocol of the plan of GOD and rejecting the teachings she had already heard, instead blaming Satan for deceiving her.

[Gen 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/14/s_3014) Then the LORD God said to the serpent,“Because you have done this,Cursed are you more than all the livestock,And more than any animal of the field;On your belly you shall go,And dust you shall eatAll the days of your life;

All three culprits (man, woman and Satan) are brought into view – Satan will never rise to power and be considered a god as he desires. His place will end up being the lowest on earth in the future.

/[Gen 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/15/s_3015) And I will make enemiesOf you and the woman,And of your offspring and her Descendant;He shall bruise you on the head,And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

In this one prophetic verse the angelic conflict (seed war) and the Gospel of Christ are all declared publicly.\

When people ask what is the true story of the Bible – why is the world so messed up…why were we created?

Many questions are answered right here in Genesis chapter 3 and specifically verse 15.

Notice Satan is beyond redemption at this point, because any offering of salvation or even forgiveness for angels had passed at this historic point.

The angels who stayed with Satan are now locked in for the Great White Throne Judgment, destined to damnation for all of history.

Just as the Unbeliever will be at their moment of physical death.

[Gen 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/16/s_3016) To the woman He said,“I will greatly multiplyYour pain in childbirth,In pain you shall deliver children;Yet your desire will be for your husband,And he shall rule over you.”

/The woman’s sin was that of willful ignorance – toward the chain of command and Bible Doctrine she had learned. The man was in authority and he had to accept full responsibility, instead he was blaming GOD for his own desires and weakness. Both were easily enticed into wanting to be *“like GOD”* because it was their deep desire. Mankind left to themselves, will always desire to be their own god, to push away from their true CREATOR.\

The OSN bucks against the things of GOD.

Going forward from this point the woman would have a physical struggle in childbirth. Also, an emotional struggle in the realm of accepting the chain of command in marriage.

/The reality is a man is at his best when he is humbly following the plan of GOD and strong in leadership roles that GOD places in his life.

The woman is at her best when she is humbly following the plan of GOD. Within the realm of marriage, she is called to be strong in her supporting role, not a role of dominance.\

We see right within the first few chapters of the Bible- standards set by GOD and a divine set of establishments.

The first 3 divine institutions.

Free will, Christian marriage and the chain of command in a Christian family.

/[Gen 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/17/s_3017) Then to Adam He said, “Because **you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you**, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;Cursed is the ground because of you;With hard labor you shall eat *from* itAll the days of your life.

The man who cannot submit to authority and follow God’s protocols, will always be in a position of weakness.\

Both of these curses can be turned into incredible blessings, by operating in BD and habitually remining in the NEW NATURE.

Success in life and especially in marriage is not dependent upon emotional waves and romantic love stories.

The world is filled with OSN’s at every turn and in marriage - two in particular.

Success in marriage - is solely dependent upon Christians who grow into SM and apply God’s word to their lives.

And now after a long introduction we get into our core doctrine – thorns.

/[Gen 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/18/s_3018) “**Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you**;Yet you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 **By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread**,Until you return to the ground,Because from it you were taken;For you are dust,And to dust you shall return.”\

After the fall in the garden the animal kingdom, the water and vegetation were no longer abundantly easy for mankind to control and take advantage of.

The human body itself was no longer pure and trouble free.

/The paradise of the garden was lost. Now thorns, would be the difficulties and struggles mankind brought upon themselves. Perfection was lost because man wanted to go independent from the plan of GOD. Most of our thorns in life are self-inflicted.\

In fact, after the flood - the whole earth itself would shift dramatically, bringing great change physically to mankind and within the atmosphere.

Let me close today with six principles in relations to this new study.

Six comparisons between man’s curse and the work of Christ on the cross;

/1. The earth itself was cursed yet it was innocent. Christ became cursed for us – the spotless LAMB of God took our curse upon HIMSELF (Gal 3:13). Because HE did, the perfection of the garden (heaven) will once again open up to us.\

/Gal 3:13 **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us**—for it is written: “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”— 14 in order that in **Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles**, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.\

/2. The earth now brings forth thorns (struggles and pain), Christ wore a crown of thorns;

Mat 27:29 And **after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head**, and *put* a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”\

/3. Mankind strives and earns by the sweat of his face. Hours before the work upon the cross, Christ sweat blood for the coming pressure upon HIS humanity;

Luk 22:44 And being in agony, He was praying very fervently; and **His sweat became like drops of blood**, falling down upon the ground.\

/4. Mankind physically returns to the dust of the earth. Christ was brought to the brink of complete dehydration and physical torment before HE was laid in a dusty tomb.

Psa 22:15 **My strength is dried up** like a piece of pottery, And my tongue clings to my jaws; And **You lay me in the dust of death**.\

/5. Mankind is destined to die spiritually without Christ, to be forever separated from God. Christ accepted the sins of the whole world which meant a spiritual form of death upon the cross. The person and work of Jesus Christ upon the cross was struck by the justice of GOD for due penalty of all the sins of the world.\

/6. Mankind without Christ, is destined to face two deaths. The first Adam did in his life (Gen 3:6 – Gen 5:5). Jesus Christ the 2nd Adam, died spiritually and physically. (Psa 22:1, 2Cor 5:21)

Jhn 19:30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.\