



2nd Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

2 Thess 2:1,2 – 2 Thess Overview and Greetings

- *2 Thessalonians Overview*

- The 2nd epistle to the church at Thessalonica was undoubtedly written by Paul while he was in Corinth and followed the 1st epistle by only 6-12 months.





2nd Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

2 Thess 2:1,2 – 2 Thess Overview and Greetings

- This was Paul’s 3rd epistle (~50-51 A.D.), preceded by the letters to Galatia and the 1st to Thessalonica; so why this 2nd epistle?
 - McCalley – ‘We can be certain of this date because of an inscription found at Delphi, Greece, that dates Gallio’s proconsulship as A.D. 51-52. *Acts 17* records the establishing of the church at Thessalonica; and in chapter 18, Paul encounters Gallio (*Acts 18:12-17*).’
 - Word had returned to Paul, perhaps through Silas and Timothy.
 - *Acts 18:1,5 - After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth..... When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.*
 - Apparently, most of the news was good although there were reports of persecution and false teaching concerning the day of the Lord that led to some brethren quitting their jobs in expectation of the Lord’s return.
 - **Purpose of the 2nd epistle!**
 - Encourage the body to persevere in the setting of continuing persecution.
 - Clarify events related to the day of the Lord.
 - » In the first epistle, some of the teaching was misunderstood. There was confusion over *I Thessalonians 5:2*, which spoke of the day of the Lord. Some believed that the church was during the present day, however here Paul corrects this interpretation-



2nd Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

2 Thess 2:1,2 – 2 Thess Overview and Greetings

- He then wanted to instruct the church in how to deal with laid-back believers.
- Lessons we can learn from this epistle (Keathley III):
 - ‘Helping believers grow requires constant diligence and commitment to people.
 - Helping believers grow is a continual process that requires a great deal of patience and realistic expectations.
 - There will always be struggles and growing pains.
 - If faithfully proclaiming God’s Word, as was Paul and his team, there will also be growth (often a great deal of it) both qualitatively and quantitatively.’
- **Outline**
 - Composite of those of McGee, Constable, Keathley III, Scofield,, McCalley:
 - Salutation - 1:1,2
 - Commendation and Comfort in the Face of Persecution - 1:3-10
 - The Prayer Considering the Righteous Judgement of God - 1:11,12
 - Rapture First and Then the Day of the Lord - 2:1-5
 - Mystery of Lawlessness Revealed – 2:6-12



2nd Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

2 Thess 2:1,2 – 2 Thess Overview and Greetings

- Exhortation and Instruction – 2:13-17
- Request for prayer – 3:1-5
- Discipline of the Disorderly – 3:6-15
- Conclusion – 3:16-18

- *2 Thessalonians 1:1 - Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - The authors are obvious and remain the same.
 - Is it the *church* that is *in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ* or *Paul, Silvanus and Timothy*?
 - McCalley – ‘The greeting found here is similar to that of *I Thessalonians* but differs in two ways. First, Paul adds **our** with Father. When Father is used alone, the emphasis is on His person; but here **our** stresses the believer’s relationship to Him and the relationship of believers to one another. Second, Paul adds the words from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (in verse 2).’



2nd Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

2 Thess 2:1,2 – 2 Thess Overview and Greetings

- Although some older manuscripts omit *our*, why is this addition of *our* important here?
- This is the 13th time Paul has used this phrase - *that peace from God* is not only of the **Father** but the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
 - » Then why was this omitted from his 1st epistle to Thessalonica?
 - » *Col 1:20-22 - and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross**. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.*
 - » *John 14:27 - “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

