

Abounding Grace Christian Church

The Second Coming Letters of Paul – Part 16

II Thessalonians – Part 3

I. Exposition of Chapter 1 (continued).

A. Verse 10 – “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.”

1. “...when He comes in that Day...” – This “Day”, again is referring here to the actual day of the second coming of the Lord. (cf. I Thessalonians 5:2-4).
2. “...to be glorified in His saints...” – Many scholars point out that this verse says Jesus will be glorified “in His saints”, not “by His saints.” Take note that a “saint”, literally means, “holy ones” and is referencing all believers. Chuck Swindoll writes:

“Christ will return not only as Judge of the lost, but as King of the saved. In that day, He will be glorified ‘in His saints,’ marveled at by believers (2 Thes. 1:10). What a grand moment of glory and honor and worship! Yes, the persecutors will be judged because they have refused salvation, but the afflicted will be glorified because they have believed in the Savior!”¹

a. This speaks of the glorification of the believer. John Stott makes an interesting statement:

“That is to say, not only will the Lord Jesus be ‘revealed’ objectively in his own splendour (7), so that we see it, but his splendour will be revealed in us, his redeemed people, so that we will be transformed by it and will become vehicles by which it is displayed.”² Note the following verses:

“Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” – I John 3:2 – English Standard Version

“When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory.”

Colossians 3:4 – Amplified Bible

b. The “glorification” of the Believer:

1) At His coming, our bodies will be changed. Our “corruptible” (pertaining to that which is bound to disintegrate and die)³ bodies will be changed to become “incorruptible” and our “mortal” (pertaining to being liable to death (that which will eventually die)⁴ bodies will be changed to “immortality”. I Corinthians 15:51-54).

2) Our bodies will be like Jesus’ glorified body. **Philippians 3:20-21.**

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

3) Our bodies will be a real body of flesh and bone. **Luke 24:39.**

4) Our bodies will not be subject to material limitations. **John 20:19-28.**

5) Our bodies will possibly be able to enjoy food. **John 21:1-14.**

3. “...to be admired among all those who believe...” – The word “admired” means; “to wonder or marvel at some event or object—‘to wonder, to be amazed, to marvel’”⁵ - The Complete Biblical Library states:

“All who believe will be filled with awe as they see His supernatural power and glory revealed in His glorious appearing and in the just judgment of His enemies.”⁶

B. Verses 11-12 – “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, 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.”

1. Verse 11 - “...we also pray always for you that our God...”

¹Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Living Insights, New Testament Commentary: 1&2 Thessalonians*, (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2016.)

²John Stott, *The Message of 1&2 Thessalonians: The Gospel and the End of Time*, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.)

³Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 266.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid., 311.

⁶*The Complete Biblical Library: Acts – Revelation, Volume 2*, (Empowered Life, Tulsa, OK, 2016.), 865.

- a. **“...would count you worthy of this calling...”** – As we mentioned from **verse 5** we are not made worthy by any works but by faith in the grace provided for by the work of Christ.

Dr. Thomas Constable writes:

“Paul consistently made what God has done for believers the basis of his appeals for them to lead lives in keeping with their destiny. Christians do not live worthily in order to obtain salvation but because they have been granted salvation.”⁷

- b. **“...and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and work of faith with power...”** – Here Paul is praying that God would fulfill His good will in them. That they would complete it by using their faith which results with His power being manifested. Grant Richison writes:

“Paul’s second petition was that God would enable the Thessalonians to fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness. God wants to ‘fulfil’ something in us. He wants to do it to the full. He will complete the job. He will do the most for you, not the least. He wants the best for us, not the worse.”⁸

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
Philippians 1:6 – ESV

2. **Verse 12** – The result of all this is that the name of the Lord Jesus may be glorified. Concerning the **“name”**, Richison states: **“The word ‘name’ here stands for all that the name of Jesus implies: character, majesty, power, excellence. It is all that He is in His person and work, His renown.”⁹**

“Thus may the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified and become more glorious through and in you, and may you [also be glorified] in Him according to the grace (favor and blessing) of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).” – II Thessalonians 1:12 – Amplified Bible

II. Exposition of Chapter Two.

- A. **Verses 1-2** – **“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”**

1. **“...the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...”** – Here is another Scripture that is troubling for the Pre-Tribulation view (**the other one being 1:6-9**). There should be no doubt that this phrase, **“...our gathering together to Him...”** is referring to the same thing Paul referred to in **I Thessalonians 4:17** where it states we **“...shall be caught up together with them ...to meet the Lord in the air.”** Dr. Craig Keener and Dr. Michael Brown write:

“So the ‘dead in Christ will rise first,’ then we who are still alive at that time will be caught up (the Greek is quite forceful and could easily be translated ‘snatched up’) to meet the Lord in the air. This is what is commonly referred to as the Rapture, the time when we are raptured away to be with the Lord. And when will this take place? Paul says it will be at the ‘coming’ (Greek, *parousia*) of the Lord... Next is 2 Thessalonians 2:1, where Paul writes to these same believers ‘concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him’... That is certainly the Rapture, correct? Absolutely. This is exactly what Paul wrote about in 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18. And in both cases, he speaks of the Lord’s coming (*parousia*).¹⁰

2. **“...we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled...”** – The word **“shaken”** means; **“to become emotionally unsettled and distraught— to be deeply distressed, to be upset.”¹¹**
- a. **“...either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us...”** – Apparently, there was false teaching being propagated concerning the second coming of Christ. **“by spirit”** is often understood as by prophecy. Then we have **“by word”** and **“by letter”** which presumably were being falsely attributed to Paul and his team.
- b. **“...as though the day of Christ had come.”** – The false teaching involved the idea that the **“day of Christ”** had already come. In other words, some were teaching that the second coming of Christ had already taken place. In **verses 3-12**, the apostle Paul shares what must take place before the second coming of the Lord.

⁷Thomas L. Constable, “2 Thessalonians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 716.

⁸Grant Richison, *Verse by Verse through the Books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2006), 2 Th 1:11.

⁹*Ibid.*, 2 Th 1:12.

¹⁰Michael L. Brown, Craig S. Keener, and Craig Blomberg, *Not Afraid of the Antichrist: Why We Don’t Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen, 2019), 103.

¹¹Louw and Nida, 314.