

General Study Of Thessalonians – Part 2

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5 [NIV] *“Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your **faith is growing more and more**, and the **love** every one of you has for each other is **increasing**. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are **enduring**. All this is evidence that God’s judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.”*

There is all the wisdom of the wise leader in this opening to Paul’s letter. It seems that Paul had received a letter or a message that was full of self-doubtings and self-destructings, they were afraid that they were not good enough, that their faith was not going to stand the test. Paul’s answer was to pick out their virtues and their achievements, he knew that praise can do what criticism cannot do. Paul knew that praise never makes a person “rest on their laurels” but fills them with a desire to do still better.

The three things that Paul referred to are the qualities of true maturing Church fellowship.

Faith that was strong – this is a mark of an advancing Christian who is growing more sure each day of what Jesus Christ has done, is doing and will do for eventually all humanity.

Love that is increasing – a love that is expressed in serving other human beings. A person may begin serving others as a duty which their Christian faith lays upon them, will end by doing it because they find it the greatest joy in life.

Enduring – through trials and persecutions.

A life of service opens up the great discovery that unselfishness and joy go hand-in-hand in life.

A constancy which endures – the Greek word used by Paul translated “endure” is “*anēchōmai*” it describes an attitude which does not only patiently endure the circumstances in which it finds itself, but masters them to be stepping stones to new achievements, [**James 1:2-4**].

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 [NIV] *“God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.”*

Our troubles can help us to look upward to Jesus Christ and forward to His Second Coming.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 [NIV] *“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power”*

Justice will be done, those who reject what Jesus Christ has done for them will lose their chance of salvation from eternal death, [**Revelation 20:4-6, 11-13, 15**].

2 Thessalonians 1:10-12 [NIV] *“on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. **We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**”*