

DECEMBER 13, 2021

2 Thessalonians 1: The Sequel – Praise, Passion, Perseverance, Persecution, & Prayer

Introductory Statement: Following up on his most recent letter sent only a few months prior, the Apostle Paul, along with his collaborator, Silas, and son in the ministry, Timothy, sends a second correspondence to the believers assembled in Thessalonica. Paul was made aware of the new believers' response to his first letter and the current challenges that they were facing. Among these challenges were increased persecutions from non-believers in JESUS CHRIST, false teachings concerning the return of JESUS CHRIST, and the believers' response to such teachings, which gave cause for concern. This ministry team loves this body of believers tremendously and works together to encourage and instruct them in understanding and doing what is right.

Objectives: Today we will spill the T.E.A. on this chapter and study the challenges that these new believers were facing along with the response of this apostolic team.

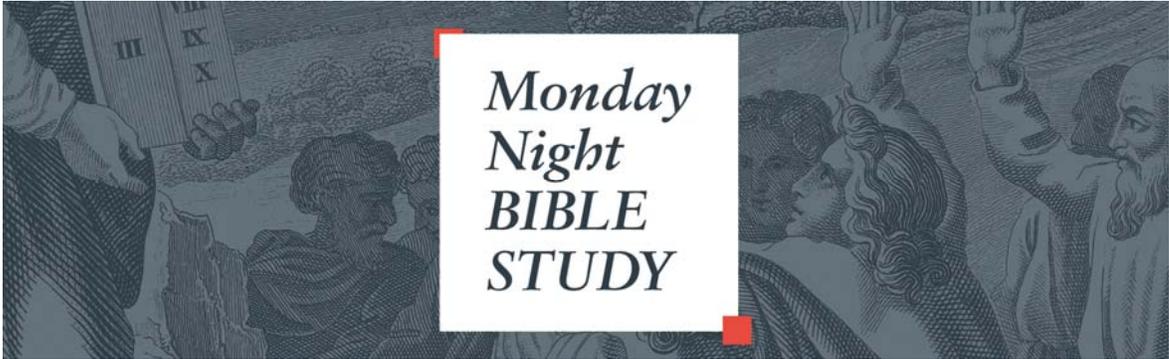
T – THE TEXT (LET'S READ THROUGH THE PASSAGE ENTIRELY) – [NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION]

1. 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 (NIV)

A. ¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

⁵ 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. ⁶ God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ 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. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not



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obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² 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.

E – EXPLANATION (LET’S HIGHLIGHT KEY THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS)

1. The Greeting

A. 2 Thessalonians 2:2

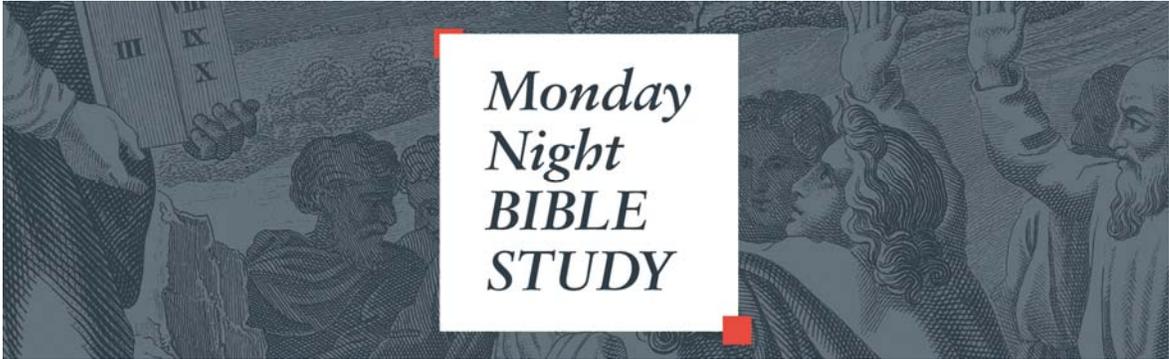
i. ² Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

- a. Grace – *charis* – favor, kindness, gift
- b. Peace – *eirene* – wholeness; essential parts are joined together
- c. GOD’s gift of wholeness be yours

B. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (PRAISE)

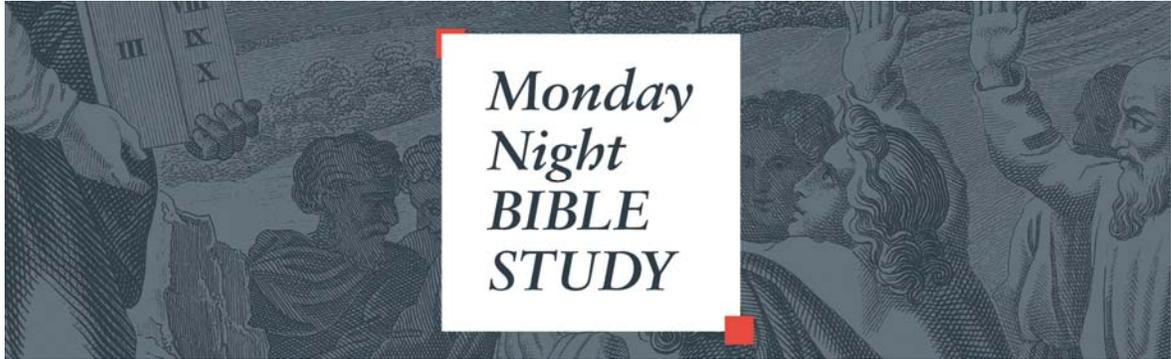
ii. ³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

- a. Ought – *opheilo* – owe; morally obligated/indebted; a responsibility toward



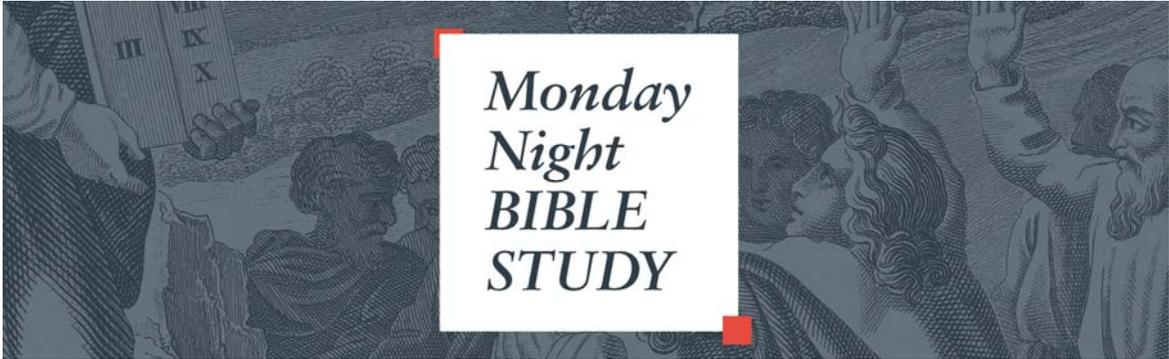
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- b. Thank – *eucharisteo* – to be thankful; continually acknowledge that GOD’s grace works well; thankful for GOD’s good grace
- c. I thank God for you...
- d. Faith – *Pistis* – Belief, Trust, Confidence, GOD’s divine persuasion, Faithfulness
- e. Love – *Agapeo* – Divine love (what GOD prefers), Goodwill, Benevolence
 - (1) Your Love is increasing (PASSION)
 - (2) John 13:34 – 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
 - (3) Romans 12:10 – 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
 - (4) Mark 12:28-31 – 12:28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”
 - (5) John 13:35 – 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- f. Perseverance – *Hupomone* – Patient Enduring, Steadfastness, Endurance, Remain Under
- g. Persecution – *Diogmos* – The hunt to bring someone down (like an animal) trying to suppress/punish their convictions



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- h. Trials – *Thlipsis* – pressure (constricting), narrow place that hems someone in, internal pressure that causes one to feel confined
 - (1) We speak proudly about how you're developing strong faith by the relentless pressure being placed upon you
 - (2) James 1:2-4 – ^{1:2} Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
 - (3) Your proclaimed faith must be tested and tried. Without the test, how do you know you have faith?
 - (4) 1 Peter 1:6-7 – ^{1:6} In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- i. Persecution/Trials will come...GUARANTEED! Watch for them!!
 - (1) John 16:33 – ^{16:33} "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
 - (2) 2 Timothy 3:12 – ^{3:12} In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
 - (3) Luke 21:17 – ^{21:17} Everyone will hate you because of me.



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2. The Justice

A. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

^{1:5} 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. ⁶ God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ 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. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

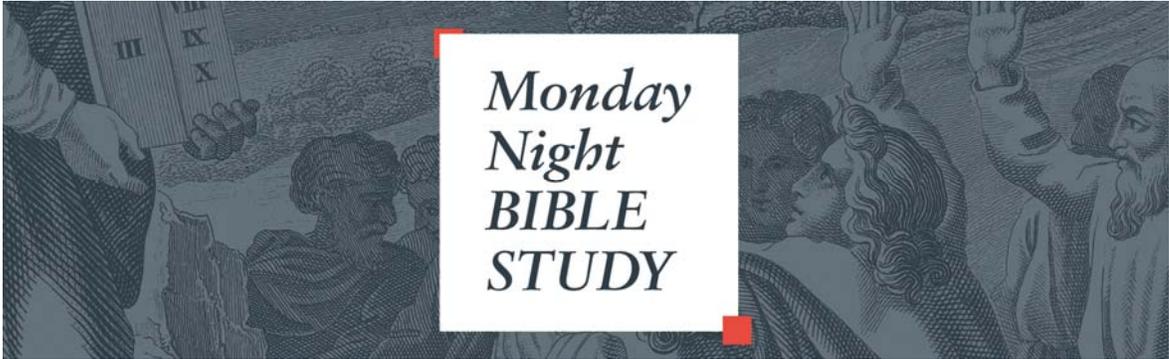
i. The suffering you're enduring is working in you a faith that is deemed worthy of being called a Christian

a. Matthew 5:10-12

^{5:10} Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

b. 1 Peter 5:8-10

^{5:8} Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.



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ii. Payback belongs to God alone

a. Romans 12:19

^{12:19} Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

iii. GOD is Always Right

iv. GOD Will Reward You

a. Romans 8:18

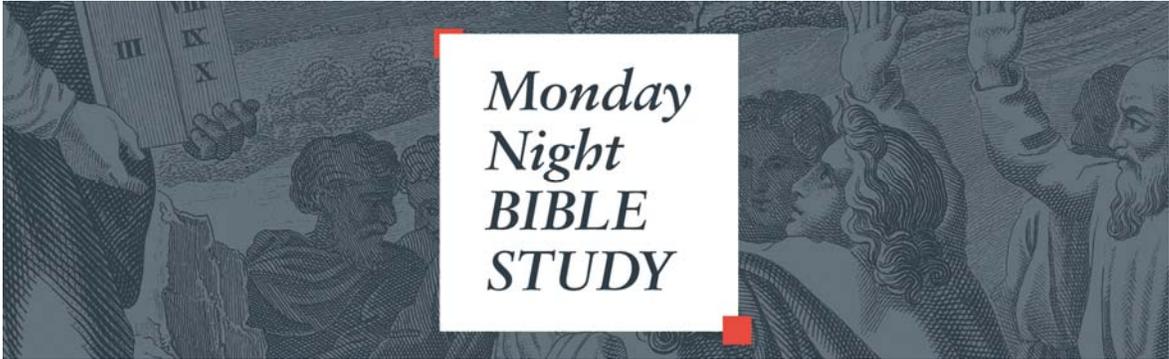
^{8:18} I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

b. 1 John 3:2

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

c. Revelation 19:11-16

^{19:11} I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.



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d. Revelation 20:11-15

^{20:11} Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

e. Matthew 25:31-34

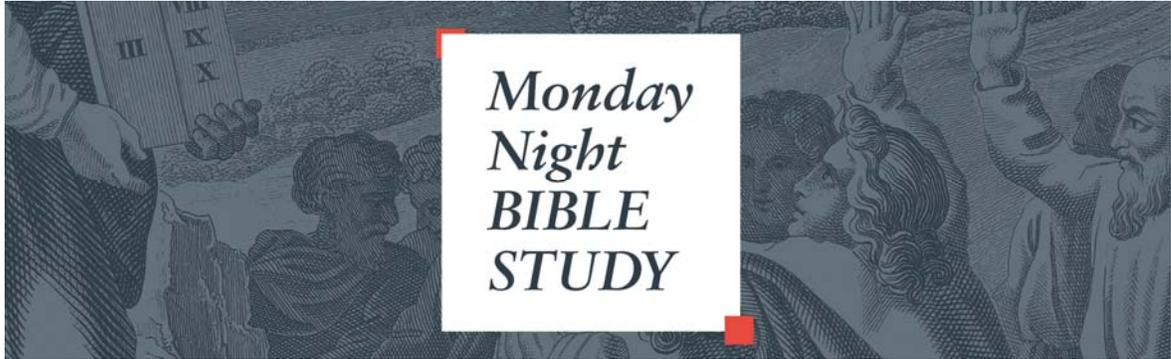
^{25:31} "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

3. The Prayer

A. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

^{1:11} With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² 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.

i. May GOD do this in you



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A – APPLICATION (HOW WE CAN APPLY THIS TEXT TO OUR LIVES TODAY)

1. Live a life of Praise and Thanksgiving
2. Fall in Love with JESUS and Develop a Passion for HIM
3. Expect to Encounter Hardships and Determine to Persevere through Persecution
4. Pray...to Lead Others into a Relationship with JESUS CHRIST, and for their Growth and Endurance along the Journey