

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1

CHARITY FOR THE BRETHREN

31 January 2014

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

The believers at Thessalonica were presented as model Christians in 1 Thessalonians.

The second letter was written to correct some confusion in the church concerning the Second Coming of Christ and what Christians should be doing in the mean time.

It includes:

1. How bad things are going to get before Jesus comes back.
2. Instructions concerning temporal responsibilities until Jesus returns.
 - a. Anticipate the Lord returning today.
 - b. Conduct your life biblically, as though He will not return in your lifetime.

CHAPTER 1

Verse 2: Believers are given grace and peace through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace is available to lost people, but it is not bestowed upon them.

You can only have peace in your heart if you belong to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 4:7).

Verse 3: God expects believers to have a genuine, heartfelt love and appreciation for every other saved person. Paul expresses his love and care for these believers.

If you don't care about other believers, you don't love God. If you say you love God, you are a liar and a hypocrite. Love for others should be a priority in our life. If you don't care for other believers, you're not following Jesus Christ.

Paul says, "**We are BOUND to thank God ALWAYS for you, brethren.**" "Bound" means that he considers it absolutely essential and necessary to always thank God for these brothers and sisters in Christ.

“As it is meet...” In Genesis 2:20-24, God had to create the woman so that Adam would have a help **meet** (fitting, proper) for him. No other creature was fitting for him to fulfill God's command to replenish the earth. It is fitting (it is right) that God put a man and a woman together.

It is MEET (proper) for a saved man to appreciate other saved men and to thank God for them. Believers ought to cleave to one another in Christian love and fellowship or our lives will be fruitless.

“...because that your faith groweth exceedingly.” We should not be content to remain at our present level of faith. We should continually aim to grow more spiritual, surrendered to the Lord, separated, patient, friendly, forgiving, knowledgeable, understanding, and wise. We're not done!

“And the CHARITY of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.” Charity is a special love between brethren; Christian for Christian. And it's EVERY Christian loving EVERY Christian, not just the one's who are like YOU!

1 John 4:19-21 Jesus Christ set the example. He loved us first. If you don't love your brethren, you don't love God. We are commanded to love our brothers and sisters in Christ (vs.21).
If you love Jesus, you will want to spend time with other people who love Jesus.
It will show all men that you are Jesus' disciple (John 13:34).

1 Peter 4:8 Christian charity will COVER the multitude of sins. It will avoid EXPOSING another brother or sister's sins. Gossip is OUT!

If you really want the full enjoyment of this Christian life you need to make a full commitment to it. And you can't make a full commitment to Jesus without making a full commitment to His people.

Prove that you love the Lord by loving His people!