

# 2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1

## LESSON #2

### GLORY IN THE BRETHREN, CHRISTIAN SUFFERING, BE WORTHY

7 February 2014

#### CHAPTER 1:3-5, 11-12

##### 1. We glory in you (vs. 4).

a. We ought to brag on each other and other Christians.

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b. This world is full of criticism and judgments against Christians. We need to be a witness and tell about the good Christians we know.

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c. Never speak against other Christians, especially in public. You'll negatively affect a lost person's opinion and hinder their chances of coming to the Lord.

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d. Glory in the good Christians that you know. Speak openly about them. It will have a positive effect on the lost.

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e. If you can't brag on your church and its members, you're in the wrong church.

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##### 2. Persecutions (vs. 4), tribulations (vs. 4), suffer (vs. 5). See 1 Thessalonians 1:6-14, 2:19-20

a. Christian suffering is not proof that you're not right with God. In fact, it may be BECAUSE you're right with God.

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b. Secret Christians are not being persecuted. Christians who are obeying and serving God and evangelizing, etc. are the ones targeted.

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c. These afflictions are a "manifest **token** of the righteous judgment of God." (vs. 5)

i. Token: something that stands for something else; a representative item.

ii. **Philippians 1:28-30.**

1. To the lost world, your persecutions and troubles represent proof that you're not right with God. If your enemies triumph over you, they believe it's because they're right with God and you're not.
    - a. This was true in the Old Testament, Kingdom of Heaven (material) sense.
    - b. This is not true for Christians. We are not of this material world. Our battles are not material battles, but spiritual.
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2. To the Christian, persecutions are indications (evident tokens) that we are RIGHT with God.
    - a. It's the same token, but it has 2 different sides.
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**d.** In **2 Thessalonians 1:4-5**, the evident token that you are right with God is your patience and faith **during** your persecutions, tribulations, and sufferings.

- i. If you don't patiently endure your trials, keeping the faith, you'll be drawn into earthly battles and neglect to win people to Jesus Christ.
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**3. "Be counted worthy of the kingdom of God" / "worthy of this calling" (vs. 5, vs. 11).**

**a.** Christians have eternal life, a home in heaven, a part in the kingdom of God forever. You are predestinated to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-31). These things will not be taken away from you.

- i. God did so much for you. Are you worth anything to God? Can He count you worthy of all the things He's done for you?

1. Many saved people have taken the free ride to heaven, but they're not worth much to God.

- a. You're going to be glorified! Be worthy of that!
  - b. Do something that gives God pleasure.
  - c. Do something that makes a real difference in this world for others. Be counted worthy of all that God did for you.
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