

# Manifest Evidence

## 2 Thessalonians 1

Paul wrote this second letter to the church in Thessalonica for three reasons. First, he wanted to commend and encourage those who were persevering under even greater persecution. Secondly, he sought to dispel rumors regarding the Day of the Lord and those who claimed it had already arrived. Thirdly, he aimed to motivate those who were living a life of idleness.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10.

As Paul addressed the concerns of these believers, he started by reminding them of who God is and how He relates to those who believe in Him.

1. How is God and His Son Jesus described in verse 1?

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2. Read the following verses. What do you learn about how God relates to us as Father?

John 1:12	
Romans 8:17	
Hebrews 12:10	
2 Peter 1:4	

**Lord** – he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord; the possessor and disposer of a thing, the owner; one who has control of the person, the master; a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master

3. **THINK:** Using the definition provided, what do you think Jesus being *your* Lord means?

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4. In what areas of your life can you clearly see Jesus fulfilling the role of Lord?

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5. Pray and ask the Lord to show you any areas of your life that you are struggling to turn over to His Lordship.

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**Bound** – metaphorically: to be under obligation, bound by duty or necessity, to do something, required

6. Why was it fitting for Paul and the others to always give thanks to God for the believers in Thessalonica? (v. 3)

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7. If, as believers, it was fitting for Paul, Silas, and Timothy to give thanks to God for the growing faith and love of other believers; it must be fitting for us to do the same. Take a moment to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the believers in your life who are demonstrating a growing faith and abounding love.

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8. Read the following verses and record what they teach about how faith grows and matures.

Romans 10:17	
1 Peter 2:2-3	

1 Peter 1:6-9	
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9. **THINK:** Knowing that suffering tests and proves our faith, how do you think suffering can teach us to love more?

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10. Paul sought to encourage these persecuted believers by reminding them that God's judgments are righteous. Which of God's righteous judgments did he point to as examples? (v. 5b, 6, 7a)

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11. **THINK:** If you were a believer in Thessalonica at this time, how would knowledge of these three righteous judgments encourage and comfort you?

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12. Look closely. What reason is given for them being counted worthy, for God repaying those who troubled them, and the promise of coming rest? (v. 10c)

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13. **THINK:** What testimony is being spoken of here? (Acts 17:1-4)

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To be clear, the believers in Thessalonica were not deemed worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven because of their outstanding performance, but rather because they believed in the sacrifice of Jesus and acknowledged Him as Lord.

14. What did Paul state was the “manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God” in their lives? (2 Thessalonians 1:4)

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<p><b>Patience</b> – standing under, to be placed under; the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings</p>
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15. **THINK:** Paul boasted among the other churches of their patience and faith in times of persecution and tribulations. What do you think Paul hoped to accomplish by this?

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The suffering of the believers in Thessalonica was not futile. They were being refined. Their tribulations resulted in patience and faith that could bear up under the great weight of trials. Their lives became living testimonies to the fact that God is good and righteous, even in times of unwarranted suffering.

16. What three things was Paul reminded of when he considered the believers in Thessalonica in his first letter? (1 Thessalonians. 1:3)

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17. What is missing in his second letter? (2 Thessalonians. 1:3)

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The believers in Thessalonica had accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, and they were growing exceedingly in their faith and love, but they had lost sight of their hope.

18. What do the following verses teach us about the source of true hope and how we can keep from losing hope in times of trouble?

2 Corinthians 4:14-18	
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Colossians 1:27	
1Thessalonians 2:19	
Hebrews 6:19	

19. They had been counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, first and foremost, because they had believed, and also in that their faith had been tested and proven true. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and answer the following questions.

How is hope possible? (v. 3)

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What do we receive in this hope? (v. 4)

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How can we be confident that our inheritance will not be lost? (v. 5)

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Meanwhile, why are various trials necessary? (v. 7)

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What does this testing produce? (v. 7)

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What do we greatly rejoice in now? (v. 3-6a)

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What do we rejoice in “with joy inexpressible and full of glory”? (v. 9)

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20. Take a moment to rejoice in the hope of Jesus.

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21. Hope sustains our faith and perseverance. What steps can you take in your personal walk to strengthen your hope?

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22. Paul reminded them of God's righteous judgment of rest for those who have been troubled. When would true and lasting rest come? (2 Thess. 1:7)

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**Rest** – relief, release, not under pressure

23. In addition, at this same time, whom will Jesus take vengeance upon? (v. 8)

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**Vengeance** - a firm administration of unwavering justice (Morris); to inflict punishment on

24. What will this vengeance look like? (v. 9)

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25. Answer the following questions regarding the reality of Hell.

What is true about every person? (Romans 3:23)

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What is the punishment for sin? (Romans 6:23)

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Who is our sin against? (Psalm 51:4)

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What did Jesus have to say about Hell? (Matthew 25:41)

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For whom was Hell prepared? (Matthew 25:41)

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How can one find hope to escape the punishment of sin? (Romans 10:9-11)

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26. Jesus will administer unwavering justice, and at the same time, His believers will receive their everlasting rest. What else will happen on that day? (2 Thess. 1:10)

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**Glorified** – that His glory may be seen in the saints, i.e., in the glory. Blessedness, conferred on them

**Admired** – to be wondered at, to be had in admiration

Every saint will be a wonder to himself. 'I thought my bliss would be great, but not like this!' All his brethren will be a wonder to the perfected believer. He will say, 'I thought the saints would be perfect, but I never imagined such a transfiguration of excessive glory would be put upon each of them. I could not have imagined my Lord to be so good and gracious.'

- Charles Spurgeon

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

"Therefore," since there is a day coming when Jesus will be glorified in His saints and we will have the opportunity to admire Him face-to-face, Paul continued to pray.

27. What did Paul pray would be the case for the believers in Thessalonica, when Jesus is “glorified in His saints”? (v.10-11)

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28. **THINK:** When you consider the whole context of this chapter, what do you think Paul thought would contribute to their worthiness of Jesus being glorified in them? (1 Thess. 3:3)

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29. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11 in several different versions and explain what Paul meant when he said, “and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.”

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30. Why did Paul pray for these things? (v. 12)

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The completion of Jesus being glorified in us and us in Him will come in the future, but we can seek to glorify Him in our lives today. Living lives of faith, hope, and love (which bear up and endure in times of suffering) brings glory to the One who gives us the strength to do so.

31. Recall a time when you were inspired by the faith, hope, and love of a person who was suffering. (If you are able, consider letting them know how they have encouraged you.)

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## A Closer Look at Bringing Glory to God

### 2 Thessalonians 1:12

32. Write out 2 Thessalonians 1:12.

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God is worthy of our glory. As believers, we are called to live a life that brings glory to Him. What does it truly mean to give God glory? How can we give Him glory? What are the reasons He is worthy of glory?

Dictionary.com defines glory as *very great praise, honor, adoration, and worshipful thanksgiving*. To give glory is *to exult with triumph, rejoice proudly, and boast*.

God's glory is manifested in all His attributes, and it is eternal. His glory is the beauty that radiates from His character, from all that He is. - gotquestions.org

33. Read Psalm 19:7-10 and list all the reasons God is worthy of glory.

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34. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and describe the glory of God depicted in these verses.

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I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images."

- Isaiah 42:8

To glorify God means giving praise and recognition to Who He is, acknowledging His worth, majesty, and glory. It involves expressing gratitude for all that He has done. It affirms that He is the source of all things. He alone is worthy.

35. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and Colossians 3:23. How are we to live as believers?

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36. What do the following verses teach you about ways you can bring glory to God?

Matthew 5:16

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John 15:8.

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We give glory to God when we choose to surrender to Him, acknowledging His Lordship. We do this through obedience and allegiance to His Word and His Ways. This is an act of worship and gratitude.

37. What do the following verses teach you about living in a way that brings God glory?

1 Chronicles 16:8-36

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Psalms 119:11

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Luke 9:23-24

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Romans 12:1-2

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38. Summarize why God is worthy of glory.

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39. Are you living in a way that brings glory to God? If so, how? If not, what can you start doing to bring God glory so that others may see Him?

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The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.  
- Psalm 19:1