

II Thessalonians

(1) Overview of the Letter

2 *Thess* 1:1-7

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 rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other 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.

NIV

What prompted Paul's second letter?

What was obviously still happening to the church at Thessalonica? 1:4-7; IThess.2:13-16

Despite his teaching (IThess.4:12-5:11), what was happening? 2:1-2; IThess.3:3

In addition to persecution, what else contributed to this confusion? 2:1-3a,5; IJn.4:1-2

And what was the intent of these lies? 5:3, 13-15; IIPet.2:1-3; see Mt.24:24

So what (3) things were combining to cause their confusion?

Expecting the *soon return* of Christ, what were some of them doing? 3:10-13; IThess.4:11

What are the two *extremes* in dealing with the Rapture/2nd Coming?

Are these relevant issues today? Why/why not?

Paul's salutation to the church...1:1-3

What does Paul say that he 'owes to these brothers...'? 1:3a

How were they doing on the 'faith' and 'loving' issues? 1:3

How are you doing in these two test areas??

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NIV

What prompted Paul's second letter?

What was obviously still happening to the church at Thessalonica? 1:4-7; IThess.2:13-16

They were under severe persecution, and apparently getting worse. They were standing.

Despite his teaching (IThess.4:12-5:11), what was happening? 2:1-2; IThess.3:3

They were still confused in separating the Rapture from the 2nd Coming of Christ.

In addition to persecution, what else contributed to this confusion? 2:1-3a,5; IJn.4:1-2

False teachers (spirits) brought in fake prophecy, reports, forged letters from Paul.

And what was the intent of these lies? 5:3, 13-15; IIPet.2:1-3; see Mt.24:24

It was to deceive, discourage, cause doubt about their salvation. Very serious issue!

So what (3) things were combining to cause their confusion?

1. Intense persecution (like Day of Lord) 2. False/lying teachers 3. Still unclear doctrine.

Expecting the *soon return* of Christ, what were some of them doing? 3:10-13; IThess.4:11

Gave up any working. Just waiting! Additionally expecting others to 'feed' them.

What are the two *extremes* in dealing with the Rapture/2nd Coming?

1. Ignore it. Too complicated... 2. Sell everything and sit and wait. Neither is acceptable.

Are these relevant issues today? Why/why not?

Paul's salutation to the church...1:1-3

What does Paul say that he 'owes to these brothers...'? 1:3a

We ought (owe it to you) to thank God for you! They were fellow partakers of Grace!

How were they doing on the 'faith' and 'loving' issues? 1:3

Their faith was growing and their love for each other was increasing. High praise indeed.

How are you doing in these two test areas??
