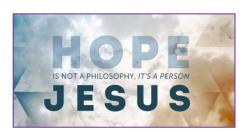


# **Thessalonians**



There Is Hope!

Lesson 10

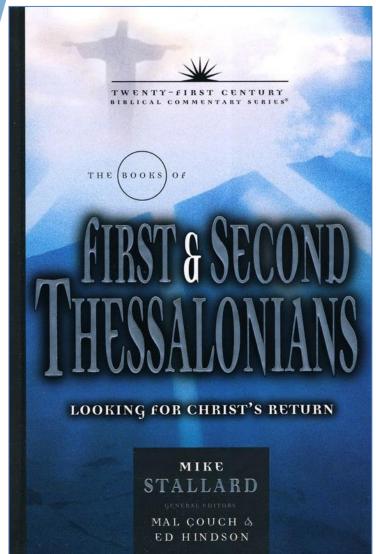
Blessed Hope: Part I

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Philip Giorgio



# **Textbook**

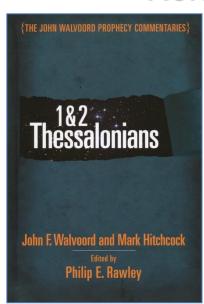


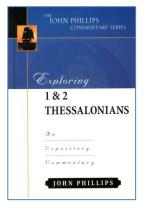


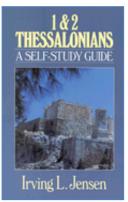


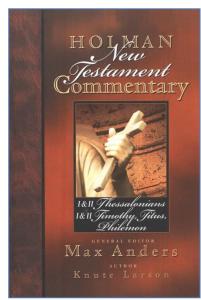
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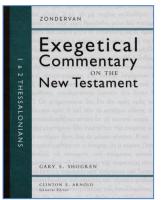


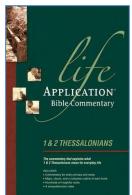


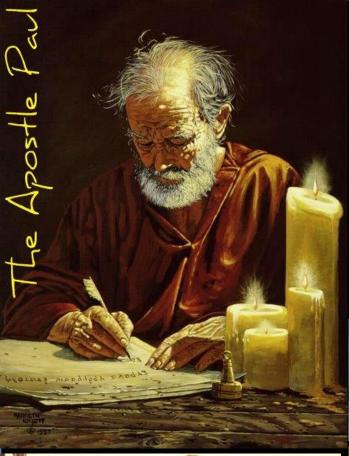








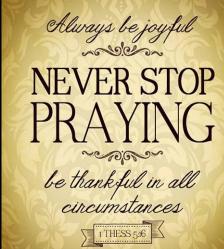




















# **Course Outline**

# Course Outline - Lessons



# Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

| Lesson 01: Introduction [Thessalonians]                     |
|---|
| Lesson 02: Inspiring Hope [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10]          |
| Lesson 03: Working Hope: Part I [1 Thessalonians 2:1-12]    |
| Lesson 04: Working Hope: Part II [1 Thessalonians 2:13-20]  |
| Lesson 05: Purifying Hope: Part I [1 Thessalonians 3:1-13]  |
| Lesson 06: Purifying Hope: Part II [1 Thessalonians 4:1-12] |
| Lesson 07: Comforting Hope [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18]        |
| Lesson 08: Future Hope: Part I [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11]     |
| Lesson 09: Future Hope: Part II [1 Thessalonians 5:12-28]   |
| Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: Part I [2 Thessalonians 1:1-12]    |
| Lesson 11: Blessed Hope: Part II [2 Thessalonians 2:1-12]   |
| Lesson 12: Blessed Hope: Part III [2 Thessalonians 2:13-17] |
| Lesson 13: Living Hope [2 Thessalonians 3:1-18]             |





# **Lesson Outline**

### Lesson 10 - Outline



# • Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

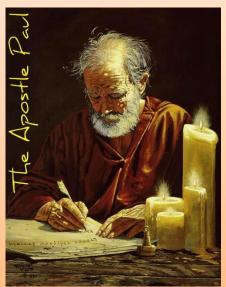
Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: Part I



### **✓** STRUCTURE



» A Word of Prayer ...... 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12







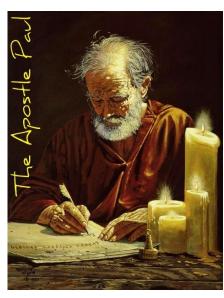


- Why Study the Letter 2 THESSALONIANS
  - WHY SHOULD WE STUDY 2 THESSALONIANS?
    - The same reason we study all of Scripture

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

---2 Timothy 3:16-17 ... NKJV

| REASONS TO STUDY SCRIPTURE: IT IS PROFITABLE FOR |                                   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| DOCTRINE   | Know what is right                |  |
| REPROOF  | Know what is wrong                |  |
| CORRECTION                                       | Know how to make it right         |  |
| INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS                     | Know how to keep getting it right |  |







# A Little History - 3 2 THESSALONIANS

 Second Thessalonians followed 1 Thessalonians by only a few months. Persecutions had begun.

It was in Thessalonica that the first Gentiles were killed in the Roman Empire. The local Roman governor in that part of the country said that every Christian had to bow before a statue of Augustus Caesar. He had been deified and statues of Caesar were erected everywhere. Christians who did not obey the edict were persecuted.

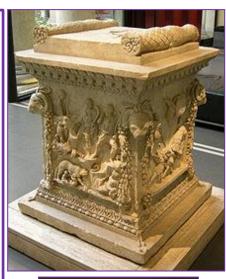
... PLINY, THE ELDER





# A Little History - 3 2 THESSALONIANS

- It was in Thessalonica that they dreamed up the procedure of offering a cask of wine on the altar to Venus or Caesar, and then publicly taking it out to the marketplace, sprinkling all the vegetables, meat, and other goods, announcing that it had all been dedicated to the god. Anyone who bought or ate any of it thereby worshipped a false god.
- Christians who stopped buying in the marketplace as a witness immediately became marked.
- The first crucifixions, the first burnings, and the first great persecutions of Christians began then.
- Prompted by the circulation of a spurious letter, apparently an intentional forgery, teachings were that they were already in the Day of Lord.







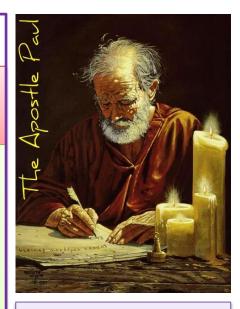
# Purpose of the Letter - 2 THESSALONIANS

PAUL ADDRESSES THREE MAJOR ISSUES:

External Pressure

Internal Pressure

- 1. Paul wants to encourage the Thessalonians in light of the continued persecution they were enduring (1:4-10).
- 2. Paul writes to counter some identity theft. Someone had masqueraded as Paul, either by letter of prophetic message (2:2). The false teaching that the Day of the Lord had already come was put forward in his name. The Thessalonians were open to be deceived (2:3). Paul want to make sure that the believers will not be taken in by any charlatans.
- 3. Paul wants to deal with evil men who might be in the presence of the congregation (3:2). His focus seems to be on unruly brothers in Christ (3:6) who are undisciplined (3:11). This lack of discipline is demonstrated by a poor work ethic, which is contrary to the apostolic example and teaching (3:7-11). The Thessalonian believers were to avoid such lazy and unruly men.

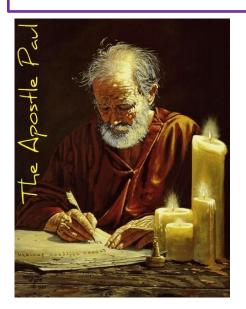


**Two-thirds** of the epistle deals with **end times** issues.

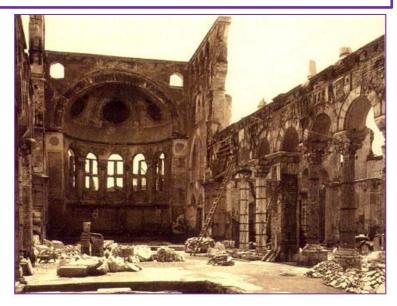


### Preview ... Blessed Hope: Part I

Paul praises the Thessalonians for their enduring faith in the midst of severe persecution. Their posture toward God is evidence that they are worthy of the coming kingdom of God. Their persecution should not be understood as evidence of God's disfavor. In addition, Paul tells the Thessalonians to take heart because Jesus is coming in power, to make all things right. There will be a role reversal at the Second Coming. The Thessalonians, who are now suffering, will be vindicated and elevated in status. The persecutors, who currently enjoy an upper hand, will be judged and destroyed by Christ. Finally, Paul prays that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in them.







### Lesson 10 - Outline



# • Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: Part I

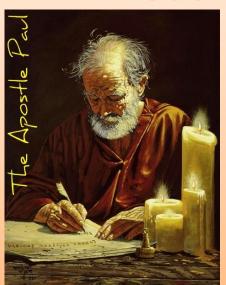


Introduction

### **✓** STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview

» A Word of Promise 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10







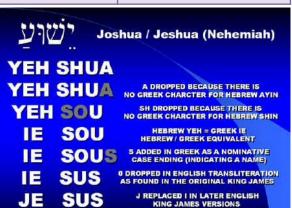


1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2... NKJV

| LORD          | kyrios        |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>J</b> ESUS | <i>Iēsous</i> |
| CHRIST        | Christos      |



## A Word of Praise - Greeting

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle to the Thessalonians begins in much the same way as the 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle (1 Thessalonians 1:1-2).
  - The letter is FROM Paul, Silvanus and Timothy
  - The letter is TO the church of the Thessalonians in God
- Paul alludes to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ twice in two verses.
  - The close connection of the Father and the Lord Jesus implies the deity of Christ.
  - The idea that God could become incarnate in man is a small thing for a Creator who made everything out of nothing by the words of His mouth.

#### GRACE AND PEACE

- Necessary ingredients for daily Christian living.
- Originate *in* God and emanate *from* Him
   1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9





<sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4... NKJV

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

--- Proverbs 3:5-6 ... NKJV

### A Word of Praise - Thanksgiving

- BOUND opheilō (o-fā'-lō):
  - The word for paying a debt.
  - Paul owes it to Thessalonians to thank God always for them.

# PRACTICAL PROBLEM: How should we deal with Christians who are doing well in their discipleship?

- 1) Tell them "Well Done"?

  Borders on flattery, promotes pride and robs God of His glory.
- 2) ACKNOWLEDGE THEM PRIVATELY IN YOUR PRAYERS AND SAY NOTHING? Permits discouragement.
- **3)** THANK GOD FOR THEM, AND TELL THEM WE ARE DOING SO. Affirms without flattery; encourages without puffing up.



Are we growing in faith each day?

Do you trust the Lord in ALL things? Proverbs 3:5-6

OR DO THE URGENT THINGS PREEMPT THE IMPORTANT?



<sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4... NKJV

- A Word of Praise Thanksgiving
  - PAUL GIVES TWO REASONS FOR HIS THANKFULNESS
    - 1. Their FAITH was growing exceedingly
    - Their LOVE for one another was bountiful
  - This lead Paul and his team to boast to all the churches of God for...
    - 1. Their patience and
    - 2. Their faith
  - In all their persecutions and tribulations they were enduring.

PATIENCE - hypomonē (hü-po-mo-nā'):

Steady; Remaining under (the load).

"The storm measures the sailor, not the calm sea."

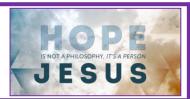
**NOTE:** Paul had his own trials in Corinth, from which this letter was written.

### Lesson 10 - Outline



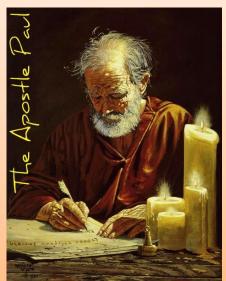
# • Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: Part I



### **✓** STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview ...... Introduction









<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8... NKJV

- A Word of Promise Righteous Judgment
  - Which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God
    - God's righteous judgment was at work among the Thessalonians
      - Purifying them as followers of Jesus.
      - Judgment begins at the house of God ...1 Peter 4:17.

17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? --1 Peter 4:17...NKJV

- RESULT: Proof of their worthiness of the kingdom of God.
  - Clear evidence that God was righteous in allowing them to suffer and endure the persecutions and tribulations described in verse 4.

We are not left on this earth in order to be popular. We are here to cause a ferment, an uproar, hatred, and strife.

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. --- Matthew 10:34 ... NKJV



<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8... NKJV

- A Word of Promise Righteous Judgment
  - WHICH IS MANIFEST EVIDENCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD
    - We usually think that God is absent when we suffer, and that our suffering calls God's righteous judgment into question.
    - Paul took the exact opposite position and insisted that their suffering was evidence of the righteous judgment of God.
    - Where suffering is coupled with righteous endurance, God's work is done.
    - The fires of persecution and tribulation were like the purifying fires of a refiner, burning away the dross from the gold, bringing forth a pure, precious metal.



<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8... NKJV

## • A Word of Promise - Righteous Judgment

- SINCE IT IS A RIGHTEOUS THING WITH GOD
  - Many people question the righteousness of God's judgment. They believe that God's love and His judgment contradict each other.
  - But God's judgment is based on the great spiritual principle that it is a righteous thing with God to repay those who do evil.
  - Since God is righteous, He will repay all evil, and it will all be judged and accounted for either at the cross (BELIEVER) or in hell (NON-BELIEVER).
  - The judgment of God means that there is nothing unimportant in my life. Everything is under the eye of a God I must answer to.

"A world in which justice was not done at last would not be God's world at all." ... Hiebert



<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8... NKJV

# • A Word of Promise - Righteous Judgment

- TO REPAY WITH TRIBULATION THOSE WHO TROUBLE YOU
  - God was also shown as righteous when those who persecuted the Thessalonians were repaid with tribulation according to their evil works.
  - They probably believed they did God a favor when they persecuted the Christians, but the righteous God would repay them and not reward them.
  - The tribulation upon these persecutors of God's people is not like a purifying fire. It is like the fire of a pure and holy judgment.

#### AND TO GIVE YOU WHO ARE TROUBLED REST

- The Thessalonian Christians were persecuted and had tribulation; and God used it for His glory.
- But the time of persecution would not last.
- A day of rest is promised for every believer.



<sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-8... NKJV

## • A Word of Promise - Righteous Judgment

- IN FLAMING FIRE TAKING VENGEANCE
  - This is what the Day of judgment will be like for those who persecuted the Thessalonians.
  - It isn't the fire that makes hell what it is.
    - In the fiery furnace, the three Jewish young men were completely comfortable, as long as the Lord was with them in the fire (Daniel 3).
  - What truly characterizes hell is that there, people are from the presence of the Lord, in the sense of being apart from anything good or blessed in God's presence.
  - From the presence of the Lord sums up the Bible's understanding of hell.
  - Nothing more needs to be said about its horrors, other than hell will be completely devoid of God and every aspect of His character, except one: His unrelenting holy justice.

The word rendered "VENGEANCE" has no associations of vindictiveness.



<sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10... NKJV

- A Word of Promise Everlasting Destruction
  - EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION
    - The blessing of Heaven is eternal.
    - The penalty of Hell is also eternal.
    - EVERLASTING aiōnios (ī-ō'-nē-os): without end; never to cease
    - FOR THE PERSECUTORS, THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS, there will be everlasting destruction.
  - TO BE GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS AND TO BE ADMIRED AMONG ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE
    - FOR THE PERSECUTED SAINTS, those who believe, they will have God glorified in them on that Day, and they will see and admire Jesus more than ever.
    - We will admire what God has done in others and in us.

NOTE THE CONTRAST PAUL IS MAKING!



<sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10... NKJV

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

--- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ... NKJV

- A Word of Promise Everlasting Destruction
  - TO BE GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS AND TO BE ADMIRED AMONG ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE
    - Glorified <u>IN</u>IHis saints,
      - NOT MONG Ithem, as in a THEATER or stadium;
      - NOT <u>BY</u>ITHEM, as if they will be SPECTATORS, the audience who watch and worship;
      - NOT THROUGH THEM, as if they will be MIRRORS which reflect His image and glory.
      - BUT IN THEM, as a FILAMENT, which itself glows with light and heat when energy passes through it.
    - We will be transformed (changed) in that Day
      - A THEATER is unchanged by the play performed in it.
      - A MIRROR is unaffected by the images it reflects.
      - The FILAMENT is changed by the heat and the energy.



<sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10... NKJV

- A Word of Promise Everlasting Destruction
  - BECAUSE OUR TESTIMONY AMONG YOU WAS BELIEVED.
    - This shows the difference between one destined for judgment and one destined for glory.
    - The difference is belief in the message Paul preached (our testimony), the simple gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - Paul knew what it was like to be transformed from a persecutor to the persecuted.
    - He believed the testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and it changed his life.

### Lesson 10 - Outline



# • Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

Lesson 10: Blessed Hope: Part I

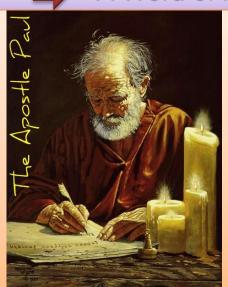


### **✓** STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview ...... Introduction

» A Word of Promise 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

» A Word of Prayer









always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12... NKJV

<sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

--- Matthew 10:37 ... NKJV

[Present tense salvation]

• A Word of Prayer - Constant Prayer

- THEREFORE WE ALSO PRAY ALWAYS
  - Since the Thessalonian Christians were in the midst of persecution and tribulation, they needed prayer.
  - Here, Paul assured them that he and his team pray always for them.

Do you pray always for fellow believers?

- THAT OUR GOD WOULD COUNT YOU WORTHY OF THIS CALLING
  - God gives Christians a high calling, namely GLORIFICATION mentioned in the previous sentence. [Future tense salvation]
  - The calling is to see Him glorified in us at His coming.
  - Paul rightly prays that the Thessalonians may be counted worthy of this calling, and he shows ways to fulfill this calling.
  - WHAT ARE THOSE WAYS?



always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12... NKJV

7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

--- Exodus 20:7 ... NKJV

- A Word of Prayer Constant Prayer
  - - We live worthy of His call when we fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, living lives touched by His goodness, and displaying His goodness.
    - We live worthy of His call when we fulfill ... the work of faith with power, believing on Jesus and seeing His work done all around us by faith.
    - 3. We live worthy of His call when the name of our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified in us. We understand that this means more than the name of our Lord Jesus as a word, but also as a representation of His character.
    - 4. We live worthy of His call when we are glorified in Him, when He alone is our source of glory and exaltation, and who we are in Jesus is more important than who we are in anything else.



always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12... NKJV

--- Exodus 20:7 ... NKJV

More than language!

- A Word of Prayer Constant Prayer
  - THAT OUR GOD WOULD COUNT YOU WORTHY OF THIS CALLING





always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

--- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12... NKJV

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

--- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

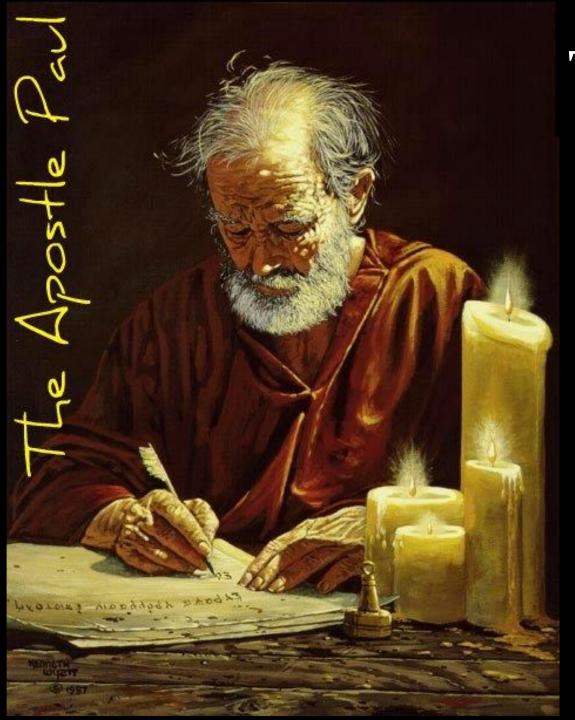
# • A Word of Prayer - Constant Prayer

- According to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ
  - This great work of living worthy of His calling can only happen according to the grace of God.
  - It happens by His power, favor, and acceptance in work in us, moving along our will and cooperation.



<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

--- Ephesians 1:7-9 ... NKJV



# Thessalonians

"There Is Hope!"

End of

Lesson

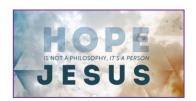




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Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

Lesson 11:

Blessed Hope: Part II

[2 Thessalonians 2:1-12]

**Next Lesson** 

# **Next Lesson**



# ■ Thessalonians: There Is Hope!

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