

2 Thess 1.1-4

Perhaps 1st of Paul's 13 NT letters - written about 50 AD  
Church located in Greece - present day Thessaloniki

Acts 17 - brief, successful, persecuted ministry there

1 Thess - Warm, pastoral letter / filled w/ joy and thanksgiving

### IN BETWEEN LETTERS

1. Persecution for their faith GREW WORSE

2. False "letter from Paul" received - Day of the Lord already PAST

3. Some believers QUIT JOBS / IGNORED DEBTS - Jesus coming soon  
- thus, other believers worked harder to care for these loafers

2 Thess - 1. The Revelation of Christ - chapter 1  
2. The Rebellion of Antichrist - chapter 2  
3. The Responsibility of Believers - chapter 3

READ vs. 1-4 // same section of 1 Thess

Paul, Silas, Timothy - Example of TEAM MINISTRY - humility - PEACE  
No need for Paul to emphasize his AUTHORITY AS APOSTLE / Galat 1

v. 1 - Church is Community which lives in God the Father & Lord Jesus

20 years after Resurrection - BOLD LINKING OF GOD AND JESUS  
- Muslim man saw last week "Jesus is God" / NOW BELIEVER

Church = assembly, called out from world for God

IN GOD? - not geographical = living in, rooted in, drawing its life from

CHURCH HAS 2 HOMES - in world and in God - Wonderful SECURITY

We are in the strong hand of God - His sheep - Nothing can remove us

GRACE AND PEACE - Greek greeting “charis” / Rejoice = God’s Love  
Hebrew greeting - SHALOM - total peace with God, man, and self

both letters begin with thanks - THIS IS MORE STRONG - we MUST v. 3

1) Paul was ESPECIALLY THANKFUL for their SPIRITUAL GROWTH

2) Faith, Hope, Love - are PRODUCTIVE and PROGRESSIVE

1 Thess 3.12 “love might increase” / 4.10 “love more and more”

THESE SPIRITUAL QUALITIES ARE NOT STATIC - like an object

“I got faith like I got a pair of glasses” / BEGIN WALK OF FAITH,  
LIKE YOU WOULD PLANT A TREE = living, alive, growing, fruitful

3) DIRECTION CONNECTION BETWEEN GROWTH &  
PERSECUTION

Jesus “ All men will hate you because of me” /

SIGN OF REVEALING DARKNESS - lift up rock, the bugs will run in fear

GRACE TO GROW BRINGS GRACE TO WITHSTAND TRIALS

4) Chapter 1 - evidence of God’s election / 2 Thess - sign of God’s GRACE

Thanks God for them and BOASTS ABOUT THEM “Boast in the Lord”

IMPORTANT PASTORAL LESSON -

WE DO NOT WANT TO FLATTER - “you are so great” -  
PROMOTES PRIDE - ROBS GOD OF HIS GLORY

WE DO NOT WANT TO FRUSTRATE - and say nothing encouraging  
PROMOTES DISCOURAGEMENT AND FEELING OF NEGLECT

BALANCE - “I thank God for you - I boast in what God is doing in you”

GIVES THEM ENCOURAGEMENT - GIVES GOD GLORY