

Worksheet #8: 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 (NKJV)

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 from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ 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, ⁵ *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; ⁶ *since it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ 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. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Therefore we also pray 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, ¹² 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.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. For what did Paul thank the Lord in his prayers regarding the Thessalonian believers (v. 3)?

2. How does Paul explain the persecution experienced by the Thessalonians (v. 5)?

3. How does persecution of the church provide an opportunity for God to demonstrate his righteousness (vv. 5–7)?

4. Is Paul describing two groups who will fall under divine wrath in v. 8, or one? Explain your answer.

5. What does it mean to receive punishment “with everlasting destruction *from* the presence of the Lord and *from* the glory of His power” (v. 9)?

6. What are Paul’s prayer requests for the Thessalonian believers (v. 11)? Identify and explain each request.

7. What is the “calling” to which Paul refers in v. 11?

8. What is Paul’s motivating purpose in his prayer requests (v. 12)? How do the requests in v. 11 fulfill the purpose in v. 12?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
