

February 7, 2016

## “Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: He Is Still Coming!”

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...we ask you not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.” 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

### A. A model of excellence does not mean you have arrived...

1. Your faith continues to grow.

“Dear brothers and sisters, we can’t help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.” vs. 3

How has your faith grown in your life?

What are you believing now that you could not have believed before?

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call.” vs. 11

2. Your love for one another continues to increase.

“...because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.” vs. 3

How has your love for others increased?

What are the tangible ways that the love of God is showing in your life?

“Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.” vs. 12

3. Persecution and trials reveal the depth of our character and the maturity of our faith.

### B. Jesus is coming and relief is on the way.

1. He is coming to count us worthy.

“And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering...And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven.” vs. 5&7

2. He is coming to defend the righteous.

“In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you.” vs. 6

3. He is coming to punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel.

“...in a flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.” vs. 8

4. He is coming to bring a bitter/sweet experience to all the world. Revelation...

- a. To punish with destruction and shut out from the presence of God.

“They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.” vs. 9

- b. To demonstrate His majesty, to glorify His people, and to marvel His followers.

“When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from who all believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.” vs. 10

### C. Jesus’ Second Coming is coming, but not yet...

1. His return will not happen until the antichrist is revealed.

“Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction.” vs. 3

2. The antichrist will be known because he opposes everything about God.

“He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship...” vs. 4

3. The antichrist will be known because he will declare himself to be God and be in the Temple to be worshipped.

“...He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.” vs. 4

4. The antichrist is presently held back by the Holy Spirit until the right time.

“And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes.” vs. 6

5. When the antichrist is revealed, he will deceive many by counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders.

“He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction...” vs. 10

6. Those who are deceived will perish because they refused to love the truth and be saved.

“...because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.” vs. 10

7. Those who are deceived will believe the lies as God will send them a delusion because they refused the truth and delighted in wickedness.

“So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.” vs. 11&12

### D. So... how should we live?

1. As a people who let our faith continue to grow!
2. As a people who walk in obedience.
3. As a people who let the love of Jesus reach all who touch our lives.
4. As a people who are ready for His return by taking as many to heaven with us as possible!

Coming Next:

February 14, 2016

“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: Keep On Keeping On!”

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18

“We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.”

2 Thessalonians 3:4