

Paul follows up his first letter to the Thessalonians continuing to encourage them and point out some doctrinal errors that have risen in the community. Here in the first chapter he begins with bragging on their example, recognizing the suffering they're enduring for Christ. He gives a word of hope, reminding them that eventually God's justice will bring them relief, and wrath to those opposing Christ.

## 2 Thessalonians

1:1-12

# A Good Example

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Christian examples are good to be around. Part of our journey toward Christ involves other people and the life they model. Whether it be their suffering, rejoicing, their experience with others who follow Christ *and* those who don't...all of life, when we consider Christ followers around us, ought to model something worth replicating.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHO** are the people around you that you'd consider to be a solid example of the Christian walk?

**WHAT** characteristics about the Godly examples around you tend to stand out most?

**WHY** do you think Godly, visible examples of Christian men and women are essential in our walk with the Lord?

**HOW** can Godly examples of those around us become a stumbling block to our own walk with the Lord?

# 2 Thessalonians

## 1:1-12

# A Good Example

## 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

### OBSERVATION

Who authored this letter and to whom (vs.1)?

For what reason does Paul say it is right to always give thanks for those in Thessalonica, according to vs. 3?

Why do Paul and the others *boast* about the church in Thessalonica (vs. 4)?

Why are those in Thessalonica suffering (vs. 5)?

What does Paul address as God's justice in vs. 6-10?

In vs. 11-12, what do you observe about Paul's prayer for those in Thessalonica?

### INTERPRETATION

Paul acknowledges the growing faith of those in Thessalonica and actually boasts to others about them, describing them as "an example". **Explain** the three exemplary areas he recognizes in vs. 4.

How will God reveal His justice to those who belong to Him (vs. 6), and how will He reveal his justice to those who do not belong to Him (vs. 7-10)?

How might Paul's words bring hope to those suffering in Thessalonica?

When Paul describes God's justice revealed to those who do not know Him or obey His gospel, how does it make you feel? Why?

In Paul's closing prayer for the Thessalonians in vs. 11, what does he mean when he asks God to "make them worthy of His calling"?

How is the name of Jesus glorified in those at Thessalonica (vs. 12)? How is His name glorified in us in a similar way?

### APPLICATION

How should God's ultimate execution of justice for those against Him shape our view of others? Do you hope for a vindictive outcome of the Lord's enemies or a Gospel centered conclusion of hope? Why?