

2 Thessalonians 1 English Standard Version (ESV)

Greeting

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 from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

The Judgment at Christ's Coming

5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from[b] the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

Think about times you have listened to other believers pray. What has encouraged you about their prayers?

Think about the things you are most thankful to God for. Are these spiritual? Material? Physical? What does Paul give thanks for? Compare this with his earlier letter.

Do you see a reflection of what you are most thankful for and the pattern of your prayer life?

How does Paul's anticipation of Jesus' return shape his values and prayers? Think of other Bible passages that encourage us to live and pray in light of eternity's values.

What does it mean to pray that God might count Christians we know to be worthy of God's calling?

What is Paul's twofold goal in his prayer for the Thessalonians? How can we strive to have these goals within our prayers for each other?