

SECOND THESSALONIANS: A Teaching Outline

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| I. | Paul's Encouragement in Persecution | 1 |
| | A. Thanksgiving for Their Growth | 1:1-4 |
| | B. Encouragement in Their Persecution | 1:5-10 |
| | C. Prayer for God's Blessing | 1:11-12 |
| II. | Paul's Explanation of the Day of the Lord | 2 |
| | A. The Events Preceding the Day of the Lord | 2:1-12 |
| | 1. First a Falling Away | 2:1-3 |
| | 2. The Man of Sin Is Revealed | 2:4-5 |
| | 3. The Restrainer Is Taken Out of the Way | 2:6-7 |
| | 4. The Second Coming of Christ | 2:8-12 |
| | B. The Comfort of the Believer on the Day of the Lord | 2:13-17 |
| III. | Paul's Exhortation to the Church | 3 |
| | A. Wait Patiently for Christ | 3:1-5 |
| | B. Withdraw from the Disorderly | 3:6-15 |
| | C. Conclusion | 3:16-18 |

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2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 - 1 Paul and 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 the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. NASU

A. 1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy – See pg 6 above in notes... Even though both Silas (Silvanus), and Timothy are included in the greeting, this is simply a consolation of grace on Paul's part to include them as they were fellow workers with him in the church's conversion and ongoing health. This was a frequent practice by Paul, who's authorship of the Thessalonians letters is rarely questioned noting the use of the personal pronoun "**I**" in 2:18, 3:5, 5:27. Paul the Apostle is the author of both 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

B. To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: – It is notable that this is an exact quote from the intro to 1 Thessalonians. Paul again refers to the Thessalonians as the "**church**" and also as possessing a union with both God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul here reminds us that we are "**in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**" I would remind us of this Union with Christ. This union with Christ and with the Father is a great mystery of what it means to be a Christian. In fact all three members of the Godhead are said to live in us and us in them as we share in and experience the divine and eternal life of God Himself. Consider the wonderful and powerful love and affection for God and Christ that wells up within our hearts. What amazing love is this that dominates our soul with such strong affection? It is in fact the experience of the very life of God within our souls which comes from our union with Him! We are in Christ and He is in us! This wonderful Union with Christ is seen in many places in the NT, here are just a few.

(Rom 8:1-2, 39, 2 Cor 5:17, Eph 1:3-4, 2:10, Col 1:27, Phil 4:19, 1 Thess 4:14,16, 2 Tim 2:10, 1 Peter 5:10)

C. 2 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ – Paul is always so filled with favor towards his people. Even when he writes to correct, he still reminds them of his warm love for them and his wishes for their well being. This is not just a formality, but it should mark the desire that every Christian has for all other Christians, that their lives would abound with God's "**grace and peace.**" May our hearts be ever filled with warm affection for the saints.