

CLOUDY PRESENT, CLEAR FUTURE (2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)

Overview of 2 Thessalonians

- Paul's objectives in writing:
 1. To _____ them in their faith (1:1-12)
 2. To _____ them to "stand fast and hold" what they know (2:15) and to not be shaken by false teaching about prophetic timing (2:2)
 3. To ask them to _____ for him (3:1-2)
 4. To instruct them in biblical _____ and godly diligence (3:6-15)

I. ENCOURAGEMENT in Suffering (1:1-12)

A. PRAISE (1:1-4)

1. Our praise should include the _____ of others. (v. 3a)

2. The strength of our church is found in:

a. The _____ of our _____ (v. 3b)

* How does our faith grow? (v. 4)

b. The _____ of our _____ (v. 3c)

B. PROMISES (1:5-10)

1. When we respond by faith to pressure and persecution, the unsaved are _____. (v. 5)

* What does it mean to be "counted worthy" of the kingdom?

2. When Christ returns to Earth, the unsaved will be _____ (v. 6) and the saved will be _____ in _____. (v. 7)

3. When God's capable working is _____ on earth, it will never be _____ in eternity. (v. 8-9)

* Who will be judged in flaming fire?

a. Those who do not _____ God

b. Those who do not _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ

4. When God's justice is applied in full, the difference between destruction and glory will be _____
_____ (v. 10)

* What was the testimony that they believed?

C. PRAYER (1:11-12)

1. For the believers' _____ (1:11a)

2. For the believers' _____ (1:11b)

3. For the believers' _____ (1:12)

* How does all of this apply to you?