

The Book of 2 Thessalonians

- I. EXPLANATION--THE WAY OF THE LORD (A PASTORAL ENCOURAGEMENT) (2 THESSALONIANS 1).
In this chapter Paul explains (in part) why God often allows believers to suffer the persecution of men.
- A. God and the persecuted.
 - 1. The saints and the benefits of persecution (we receive the good).
 - a. The benefit of sanctification.
 - (1) Our faith in God is enlarged (1:3).
 - (2) Our love for believers is enlarged (1:3).
 - (3) Our example to all is enlarged (1:4).
 - b. The benefit of preparation (1:5).
 - 2. The Savior and the benefits of persecution (he receives the glory) (1:10, 12).
 - B. God and the persecutors (1:7-9).
- II. TRIBULATION--THE WRATH OF THE LORD (A PROPHETICAL ENLIGHTENMENT) (ch. 2).
- A. Facts concerning the day of the Lord (2:1-12). The day of Christ is a reference to the coming seven-year tribulation.
 - 1. The day of the Lord and the church (2:1-3).
 - a. The confusion (2:1-2).
 - b. The clarification (2:3).
 - 2. The day of the Lord and the antichrist (2:3-5, 8-9).
 - a. His titles.
 - (1) The man of sin (2:3).
 - (2) The son of perdition (2:3).
 - (3) The mystery of iniquity (2:7).
 - (4) The wicked one (2:8).
 - b. His travesty (2:4).
 - c. His trickery (2:9).
 - d. His termination (2:8).
 - 3. The day of the Lord and the restrainer (2:6-7).
Note: It is commonly held that the restrainer here is the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. The day of the Lord and the unsaved (2:10-12).
 - B. Facts concerning the destined of the Lord (2:13-17). After dealing with the eternal damnation of the lost, Paul now deals with the eternal salvation of the saved.
 - 1. The source and time of our salvation--God's choice from the beginning (2:13).
 - 2. The method and means of our salvation--through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth (2:13).
 - 3. The goal of our salvation--to gain the glory of Jesus Christ (2:14).
 - 4. The responsibilities of our salvation--to hold the traditions by word or this epistle (2:15).
- III. CONSECRATION--THE WILL OF THE LORD (A PRACTICAL EXHORTATION) (ch. 3).
- A. Paul's request (3:1-2).
 - B. Paul's reassurance (3:3-5).
 - C. Paul's reprimand (3:6-18)
 - 1. The recipients of this reprimand.
 - a. The disorderly (3:6, 11).
 - b. The busybodies (3:11).
 - c. The loafers (3:7-10).
 - (1) Paul's work record (3:7-9).
 - (2) Paul's work rule (3:10).
 - d. The disobedient (3:14).
 - 2. The recommendations in this reprimand.
 - a. First step--identify the person (3:14).
 - b. Second step--admonish him (3:12, 15).
 - c. Third step--excommunicate him (3:6, 14).
 - d. Fourth step--love the person as a brother or sister through it all (3:15).