

**TO COMFORT YOUR HEARTS AND
ESTABLISH YOU**

2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

2We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, **3** remembering without ceasing your **work** of **faith**, **labor** of **love**, and **patience** of **hope** in our **Lord Jesus Christ**

1:1-5 Opening

1:6-3:10 Work of Faith

3:11-4:12 Labor of Love

4:13-5:22 Patience of Hope

5:23-28 Closing

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because **your faith** grows exceedingly, and **the love** of every one of you all abounds toward each other...

What is missing?

Hope (mistaken idea about **Jesus' return**)

**Paul's prayers in 2 Thess. 1:11-12; 2:16-17;
3:5,16,18**

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

11 Therefore **we** also **pray always for you** that **our God would count you worthy of this calling**, and **fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness** and **the work of faith with power**,
12 that the **name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you**, and **you in Him, according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may **our Lord Jesus Christ Himself**, and **our God and Father**, who **has loved us** and **given us everlasting consolation** and **good hope by grace**, **17 comfort your hearts** and **establish you in every word** and **good work**.

2 Thessalonians 3:5,16,18

5 Now **may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.**

16 Now **may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.**

18 The **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

2 Thessalonians 1:3

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What is missing?

Hope (mistaken idea about **Jesus' return**)

Paul's prayers in 2 Thess.: 1:11-12; 2:16-17; 3:5,16,18

His request for their prayers for him 3:1-2

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, **2** and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, **17** comfort your hearts and establish you in every word and good work.

Petition for their spiritual needs—may God:

Comfort your hearts (1:1-12)

Establish you in every word (2:1-17)

Establish you in every good work (3:1-18)

Comfort Your Hearts – 1:1-12

Author: *Paul with Silvanus and Timothy* v.1

To: *church of the Thessalonians in God...*

Greeting: *grace to you and peace...* v.2

Thanks to God: for Thessalonians' growth in
the face of severe persecution v.3-4

Comfort for their hearts v.5-12

Their endurance → **God's judgment** v.5

2 Thessalonians 1:4b-10

...your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

2 Thessalonians 1:4b-10

8 in **flaming fire** **taking** vengeance **on those** **who do not know God**, and **on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

9 **These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,** **10** **when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.**

Comfort Your Hearts – 1:1-12

Their endurance → God's judgment v.5-8

God's judgment is righteous

He will judge as righteous the Thessalonians
who endure persecutions with faith

They trouble you → God will trouble them
when Jesus returns v.6,8,10

Those who do not know God and do not obey
the gospel → everlasting destruction,
away from the presence and glory of the
Lord v.8-9

Comfort Your Hearts – 1:1-12

We will see Him and be in awe! v.10

He will be glorified in us because we have believed in Him based on the gospel 10

Then Paul prays that God would count them as worthy of the calling and fulfill His good will in them 11

Christ is glorified in us \leftrightarrow we're glorified in Him v.12a

All because of God's grace v.12b

Establish You in Every Word and Good Work

– 2:1-3:15

Paul corrects the **doctrinal error** in **2:1-12**

Paul confronts the **behavioral error** in **3:6-15**

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Establish You in Every Word and Good Work

– 2:1-3:15

Paul corrects the doctrinal error in 2:1-12

Prayer is in the middle of it all 2:16-3:5

Paul confronts the behavioral error in 3:6-15

Paul laid foundation for their comfort in 1 Th 4-5 and 2 Th 1

The logical order of the revelation of truth in both letters for Thessalonians is remarkable

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

1 Now, brethren, concerning **the coming** of **our Lord Jesus Christ** and **our gathering together to Him**, we ask you, **2 not to be soon** shaken in mind or **troubled**, either by **spirit** or by **word** or by **letter**, **as if from us**, **as though the day of the Lord had come**. **3** Let no one **deceive you** by **any means**; for **that Day** will not come unless **the falling away comes first**, and **the man of sin is revealed**, **the son of perdition**, **4 who opposes** and **exalts himself above all that is called God** or **that is worshiped**, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God**, showing **himself** that **he** is **God**.

Establish You in Every Word – 2:1-17

Some were upset by a deception claiming the day of the Lord had come already v.2

Paul begs them on the foundation of the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ's return AND our being gathered to Him (1 Th 4:13-18) as the basis for not believing that false teaching v.1

False teaching did not come from Paul, Silas, and Timothy by spirit, word, or letter v.2

Establish You in Every Word – 2:1-17

Paul provides more truth about events before
Jesus returns v.3-12

The apostasy will come first v.3

Mystery of lawlessness already at work v.7

It was being restrained in Paul's time v.7

After restraint removed, the lawless one would be
revealed v.8

Direct Papal Claims of Divinity

- **“The Lord our God no longer reigns: He has resigned all power to the Pope.”** TETZEL, Vendor of Indulgences to obtain money for the repair of St. Peters Basilica: Cited in “THE HISTORY OF PROTESTANTISM”, Vol. I pages 255-260
- **“The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ himself hidden under the veil of the flesh. Does the Pope speak? It is Jesus Christ who speaks...”** Pope Pius X, when Archbishop of Venice; Quoted by “Catholique Nationale”, July 13, 1895

Direct Papal Claims of Divinity

- **“It is certain that the Pontiff was called a God by the Pious Prince Constantine.”** Canon Law, published by Gratianus, 12th Century
- **“The Most Holy and Most Blessed One, who hath Divine Judgment, who is Lord on Earth, successor of Peter, the Lord’s Christ, Lord of the Universe, Father of Kings, Light of the World, the Chief Pontiff Pope Martin.”** Annunciation of Pope Martin at the Court of the Greek Emperor. 13th Century.

This fits 2 THESSALONIANS 2:4

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Jesus returns v.3-12

The apostasy will come first v.3

Mystery of lawlessness already at work v.7

It was being restrained in Paul's time v.7

After restraint removed, the lawless one would be
revealed v.8

Jesus will return and destroy him with His word v.8

Description of the work of the lawless one v.9-12

Establish You in Every Word – 2:1-17

Description of the work of the lawless one v.9-12

According to the working of Satan v.9

With power, signs, & lying wonders 9

All unrighteous deception to the perishing 10

**They don't love the truth that could save them
10; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 1 Kings 22:23**

**God will send them a strong delusion to believe
because they love the pleasure of
unrighteousness instead of the truth v.11-12**

Establish You in Every Word – 2:1-17

Thessalonians' faith in the truth is **contrasted** with the **unrighteous ones' faith** in a **lie v.13-15**

Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians **v.13**

Process of salvation v.13b-14a

God from beginning planned means & process of salvation (literally **into salvation *in sanctification of the Spirit & belief in the truth***) **v.13**

Paul called them by preaching the gospel, they believed it, the Spirit sanctified them, they were saved v.14

So hold on to apostolic truth you were taught by word or our epistle! v.15

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1 Finally, brethren, **pray for us**, that the **word of the Lord may run swiftly** and **be glorified, just as it is with you**, **2** and that **we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men**; for **not all have faith**.

3 But **the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one**. **4** And **we** have **confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you**.

5 Now **may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ**.

Establish You in Every Good Work – 3:1-18

“Pray for us” implies Thessalonians’ prayers would be heard by God v.1-2

Implies Thessalonians’ fellowship with God

Not all have faith (wicked persecutors) v.2

Assurance of Thessalonians’ faithfulness based on faith in God’s faithfulness v.3-4

Prayer for Thessalonians’ spiritual growth v.5

Command to withdraw from every brother walking disorderly v.6-15

Establish You in Every Good Work – 3:1-18

Command to withdraw from every brother walking disorderly v.6-15

Why work if Jesus is returning soon?

Why work if I missed His return already?

Paul's example not to be a burden v.7-9

Then commanded them:

- If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat v.10
- Some not obeying by not working: Get to work!
- Note and not keep company with disorderly v.14
- Admonish as a brother, not as an enemy v.15

