

Study Guide for September 30th, 2007. Faith, Love and Opposition. II Thess. 1:1-10.

Introduction: How would you encourage good progress among folks you work with?
What have you found effective in motivating you toward progress of some goal?

I. The source and agents of grace: (II Thessalonians 1:1-2)

- A. Read Acts 17:1-9 & I Thessalonians 2:17-3:6. What was Timothy's role in establishing the church at Thessalonica?
- B. What are some of the benefits of team ministry instead of individual effort alone?
- C. Consider Paul's salutation (vs. 2). . .
 - 1) Who is the only source of grace and peace?
 - 2) What do these words reveal about the relationship between the Father and Jesus?

II. Thanksgiving for evidence of grace: (II Thessalonians 1:3-4)

- A. What does Paul give thanks to God for when he thinks of the Thessalonians?
- B. Compare Paul's prayer (I Thess. 3:10-12) and exhortation (I Thess. 4:9-10) with the report of the Thessalonians' progress in these verses. What can we learn?
- C. How are the Thessalonians handling opposition to the expression of their faith?
- D. What are some keys to fostering spiritual perseverance like the Thessalonians?

III. Justice and grace result finally in glory. (II Thessalonians 1:5-10)

- A. What is the evidence that Paul refers to in vs. 5 which points to the conclusion that God's judgment is right? (see Philip. 1:28)
- B. According to vs. 6-7a, what will God do to . . .
 - 1) . . . those persecuting the Thessalonians?
 - 2) . . . the Thessalonians and the apostles? Why does he do all this?
- C. Paul teaches about God's righteous future judgment in vs. 7b-9.
 - 1) When will it take place? How will Jesus come? Who accompanies him?
 - 2) Who will be punished? (vs. 8)
 - 3) What will the judgment be? (vs. 9)
- D. What does this day of God's judgment hold for all those who have believed?
How can such a vision of future glory help sustain you in times of difficulty?