

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

2nd Thessalonians

Feb 2017

Model for Living: *Trials of Faith*

INTRODUCTION

What do think are the biggest trials a new adult Christian faces?

EXPLORATION

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Note: This second letter was written within weeks of the first letter because the first letter had caused some misunderstandings among the immature believers, especially concerning the Second Coming.

1. What was the reputation of the church at Thessalonica? v. 4
2. What difficulties was the church at Thessalonica experiencing? v. 4
3. What do persecution and trials prove about God's work in the church and the world? v. 5
4. How can a person go through trials and yet have their faith strengthened? **Jer 29:11**
5. When we are going through difficulties, how do we know God hasn't forgotten us? **Isa 45:7**
6. What are some reasons we use to explain why we experience trials and hard times? **Heb 12:11**
7. How could trials and hard times be part of God's plan for us? **Phil 1:6; Eph 2:10**
8. How will God deal with unbelievers? Believers? When? Vv. 6-7
9. Who will be Christians' representative/advocate ("lawyer") at their final "trial?" **Heb 7:25, 26**
10. When will God reward and punish people? Why? How? Vv 7-9
11. What will believers experience when they see the Lord Jesus? (v. 10) **1 Ths 3:13; 1 Cor 3:13**
12. What was Paul's prayer for the church at Thessalonica? Vv. 11-12
13. Why did Paul think the name of Jesus might be glorified during trials? v. 12 How?

APPLICATION

- What lessons is God trying to teach you through your recent trials and difficulties?
- In what trials and difficulties do you need help so that God's name will be glorified?

I have some friends who own a shop called Busy Bee Florist in Florida. Sometimes, on Mother's Day and other holidays, they would get very busy and ask me to help them by making deliveries. Of course, on such occasions, I would drive one of the company vans. One particular Mother's Day, I had just left the shop with the van loaded to the brim with beautiful flower arrangements and planters - all intended for eager mothers. When suddenly a car shot around the corner right in front of me! I slammed on the brakes, barely missing the car --- and you could almost hear the cry of disappointed mothers as their flower arrangements and planters crashed to the floor of the van. Well - I'll tell you- right then an unfavorable description of that driver and every one of his ancestors formed in my mind - I opened my mouth --- and I caught myself! And didn't say anything! You see, I was in my friend's van. On the side in bright, tall letters it said BUSY BEE FLORIST. If I had yelled out and told that fellow what I thought of him - people would have heard me -- but they would have seen BUSY BEE FLORIST. At that moment I was representing the florist shop and my friends. My actions and words would reflect on the image people had of my friend's business and on them. So I had to be careful.

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