

Jesus' glory devastates His enemies, but grants relief and hope to His people.

I. Revealed – Two Persons

A. Man of Lawlessness (2:3-9)

1. His name defines his character (2:3b)
2. His actions expose his empty pride (2:4)
3. His power revealed (2:9-10)
4. The mystery (secret) of lawlessness is already at work. (2:7)

B. The Lord Jesus (1:7-8a; 2: 8)

1. From heaven.
2. Mighty angels aren't His source of power, but an expression of His power.
3. Flaming fire: holiness and just judgment
4. Devastating power of His appearing! (2:8)

II. Justice: Two Peoples

A. Rebels (1:5-9; 2:10-12)

1. Repaid with affliction, vengeance
2. Punishment of eternal destruction (1:9)
3. The sin of rebellion (2:10b-12)  
misplaced love, belief and pleasure

B. Saints (2:1; 1:7, 10-12)

1. Gathered together to Him! (2:1) (1Thess 4:13-18)
2. Granted relief (1:7)
3. Jesus is glorified in us! (1:10)
4. Filled with marvel as we see Jesus! (1:10)
5. Made worthy by God, so that the name of Jesus may be glorified in us. (1:11-12a)
6. And we are glorified, in Him! (1:12)

**How does this apply to me?**

**Passage Overview:**

Paul was confident that the Lord would continue His sanctification of the saints in Thessalonica. They had experienced significant persecution, but God had been and would continue to be faithful to them. They still had many questions after Paul was driven from their city and Paul had sought to address these in his letters. But he knew that although he was teaching them from a long distance away, the Spirit was with them and in them, forming them into the people of God they should be.

He challenges them and encourages them to stand firm. They must hold to the teachings they had received. But Paul desires that their growth develop beyond simple required obedience. He longs for them to experience the deep eternal comfort and hope that comes through the grace and love of God. He wants them to fall more and more in love with God as they live in the blessings of His grace. In so doing, they will actively live for Him, motivated out of a deep love and worship of Him. At the same time, God Himself would equip, enable, and direct them.

Finally, he addresses those few who made themselves busy in other peoples' lives rather than keeping busy by working hard. When we don't occupy ourselves with productive work, we can easily begin to fill our time by meddling in others' affairs. Instead, we are to be consistently and actively engaged in doing good.

**Reading for Next Week:** 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:18