

2 THESSALONIANS: PAUL'S REVELATION ABOUT THINGS TO COME
SESSION 2 | 2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-2:5

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12 | PAUL'S PRAYER IN REGARD TO PERSECUTION

- Verse 11 –
 - The word **wherefore** is related to but different than *therefore*. Whereas *therefore* explains the conclusion, *wherefore* explains the motivation. Wherefore is a *why* word.
 - Based on the persecution, Paul will **pray always** for the Thessalonians. This focus of his prayer is twofold.
 - First, that **God would count you worthy of this calling**. The calling in consideration must be the *kingdom calling* of the Thessalonians, who were suffering in order to be **counted worthy of the kingdom of God** (v. 5).
 - Second, that God would **fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness** along with every **work of faith**. This could either be kingdom related or a means of saying, “may God not only do the kingdom work within you, but also the work of the body of Christ.
- Verse 12 –
 - Paul's ultimate desire was always God's glory centered on God's grace.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-5 | INFORMATION ABOUT THE DAY OF CHRIST

- Verse 1 –
 - While the previous verses related largely (if not totally) to their experience as Jewish believers (saints of the era of the kingdom offer), Paul shifts focus with the word **Now**.
 - In Greek it is the conjunction δε [de], which is a transition conjunction often translated *now* or *but*.
 - It is a conjunction that is not used to connect two similar ideas but transition to another idea.
 - For example, the conjunction is used in 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 4, 5, and 6 as the first word of each English sentence, translated as **but, and, and, now** respectively.
 - In these verses Paul gives a list of unrelated comments, and uses the δε [de] conjunction in each, rather than the *kai* conjunction, which is the typical Greek word for *and*.
 - While *kai* connects, *de* separates. Why is this important? Because the subject matter of chapter 2 will be different than that of chapter 1.
 - Paul beseeches the Thessalonians **by the coming of our Lord**. That is, *on behalf of or concerning*.
 - The word **coming** is παρουσία [parousia] and does not give, on its own, information about *which coming*.
 - However, Paul goes on to clarify **and by our gathering together unto him**. He uses the connective conjunction *kai* which can be translated *and, even, also, etc*.
 - We would have the *strong hint* that **our gathering together** is a reference to the rapture.
 - The hint comes in the grammatical transition from speaking about the Second Coming (2 Thess. 1: 7-8) along with the extra description of **gathering**.
 - We would not have proof because the Jewish people are also gathered together at the Second Coming.
- Verse 2 –
 - Their *beseeching* was that the Thessalonians are not **shaken in mind...by any means** nor **troubled**. He elaborates on **any means** when he refers to **spirit** and **word** and **letter from us**. The issue that *could shake them up* is a *deception* that **the day of Christ is at hand**.

