

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 v1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: v2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. v3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. v4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. v5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. v6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you v7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. v8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. v9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power v10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. v11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. v12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **FACING THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE.**

### **I. WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE WHEN WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD – v1-4**

#### **1. WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN WE ARE “IN” GOD AND “IN” CHRIST – v1 - Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians *in* God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

##### **i. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “IN” GOD THE FATHER?**

###### **1. In one sense all creation is “IN” God.**

Genesis 1:1 ESV *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:27 ESV *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Psalms 24:1 ESV *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,*

Psalms 139:1-24 ESV *O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me*

###### **2. In another sense Christians have a deeper connection to God.**

**1 John 3:1f** ESV *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now*

**Romans 14:8** ESV *For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*

**Psalms 100:3** ESV *Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

## ii. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “IN” THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

What makes us Christians different from others does not lie in our human characteristics, **IT LIES IN WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US.**

### 1. To be “IN CHRIST” means; WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY.

**Galatians 3:27** ESV For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**John 1:12** ESV But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

### 2. To be “IN CHRIST” means; WE ARE A NEW CREATION.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** ESV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** ESV To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

### 3. To be “IN CHRIST” means; WE ARE NOT CONDEMNED.

**Romans 8:1** ESV There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Romans 6:3** ESV Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

**Galatians 2:20** ESV I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### 4. To be “IN CHRIST” means; WE HAVE A NEW PURPOSE.

**Ephesians 2:10** ESV For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### 5. To be “IN CHRIST” means; WE HAVE A NEW HELPER.

**Acts 2:38** ESV And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## SO

**WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN WE ARE “IN” GOD AND “IN” CHRIST**

## HOWEVER

2. WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN GOD AND CHRIST ARE “IN” US - **v2** *Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**WE HAVE GOD’S GRACE AND PEACE GIVEN TO US AS WE FACE THE FUTURE**

## i. WE HAVE GOD'S GRACE

**Romans 5:12-15** *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-- v13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. v14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. v15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

## THAT GRACE GOES WHERE WE GO

**1 Corinthians 16:23** *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.*

**2 Corinthians 13:14** *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**Philippians 4:23** *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

**Philemon 1:25** *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

**Revelation 22:21** *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*

## ii. WE HAVE GOD'S PEACE

**Romans 5:1** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

## THAT PEACE GOES WHERE WE GO

**1 Tim 1:2** *Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**2 Tim 1:2** *Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Titus 1:4** *Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

**Philemon 1:3** *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**2 John 1:3** *Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.*

## THAT PEACE WILL GO WHEN EVIL REIGNS

**Revelation 6:4** *Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.*

## SO

WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN  
WE ARE "IN" GOD AND "IN" CHRIST

GOD AND CHRIST ARE "IN" US

## HOWEVER

3. WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN GOD AND CHRIST COME OUT OF US - **v3-4** *We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. v4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.*

**The clearest evidence that we are connected to God lies in what we produce. JESUS SAID IN**

**Matthew 7:15-23** *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. v16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? v17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. v18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. v19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. v20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. v21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. v22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' v23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"*

**SO**

**WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE WHEN WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD AND**

**WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN**

- **WE ARE “IN” GOD AND “IN” CHRIST**
- **GOD AND CHRIST ARE “IN” US**
- **GOD AND CHRIST COME OUT OF US**

**II. WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE BECAUSE WE KNOW THE FUTURE IS IN GOD’S HANDS v5-9**

*v5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. v6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you v7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. v8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. v9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power v10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. .*

One of the things that many people, including Christians, struggle with is the ISSUE OF THEODICY. – (The existence of EVIL in the world.) Most commonly stated as,

**WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?**

**WHILE THIS PASSAGE DOES NOT GIVE US A COMPLETE ANSWER, PAUL MENTIONS FIVE THINGS ABOUT THE FUTURE.**

**1. WHILE WE CANNOT FULLY ANSWER THE FUTURE, WE CAN TRUST WHAT GOD IS DOING NOW.**

*v5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right,*

**2. IF WE ARE SUFFERING FOR CHRIST IN ANY WAY NOW, IT WILL NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GLORD OF THE FUTURE.**

*v5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ,*

**3. GOD IS JUST.**

*v6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you, v8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. v9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power*

**4. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.**

*v7B This will happen **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.** v10 **on the day he comes** to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed.*

**5. WE WILL SHARE IN HIS GLORY.**

*v10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. **This includes you,** because you believed our testimony to you.*

**SO**

**1 WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE WHEN WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD AND**

**WE CONNECTED FULLY TO GOD, WHEN**

- **WE ARE “IN” GOD AND “IN” CHRIST**
- **GOD AND CHRIST ARE “IN” US**
- **GOD AND CHRIST COME OUT OF US**

**2 WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE WHEN**

- **WE KNOW THE FUTURE IS IN GOD’S HANDS**

**III. WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE BECAUSE WE CAN COMMIT THE FUTURE INTO GOD’S**

**HANDS v11-12** *v11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. v12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**I don't know what the future may hold, but I know who holds the future.**

**Ralph Abernathy**

The best thing we can do about the future is commit it into God’s HANDS.