

Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sermon Notes: “Growing in Faith, Increasing in Love”, by Curt Deming, Teaching Pastor from [II Thessalonians 1:1-12](#). Old Testament Reading: [Psalm 79:1-13](#); New Testament Reading: [Acts 17:1-9](#).

What will we learn?

- Trials = Opportunities to display our faith.
- Jesus will return as judge.
- We can trust God’s justice and goodness.
- Paul showed us how to pray in accordance with God’s purposes.

Historical Thessalonica

- Founded by Cassander — 315 BC
- Capital of Macedonia
- Egnatian Way
- Free city with politarchs.

Religious Background

- Olympian Pantheon (especially Zeus & Dionysus)
- Imperial cult
- Egyptian deities (especially Serapis & Isis)
- Jewish
- Cult of Cabirus.

What are three tools for reading epistles?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Main ideas for both letters:

- Triune God works to accomplish our salvation.
- Believers are appointed to salvation rather than wrath.
- Thessalonian church is a model for others.
- Our hope is based upon the return of Jesus.
- Consistent posture of gratitude.

(Over)

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Sunday Service — September 19, 2021

I Thessalonians summary:

- Sexual self-control
- Brotherly love and daily work
- Steadfastness in sorrow
- Righteousness in anticipation of Christ's return
- Fellowship and worship in the church.

II Thessalonians setting:

- Timothy returned to Paul and Silas in Corinth with mixed news.
- The disruptive-idle in the church needed to be confronted.
- Some were confused about the timing of Christ's return.
- They were facing increased persecution.

II Thessalonians outline:

- Chapter 1 — Revelation
- Chapter 2 — Rebellion
- Chapter 3 — Responsibility.

The salutation: ([II Thessalonians 1:1-2](#))

- Who is sending this letter?
- To whom is the letter addressed?
- What blessing comes to them and from who?

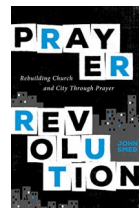
[II Thessalonians 1:3-12](#):

- Thanksgiving for God's grace ([II Thess. 1:3-4](#))
- Defense of God's justice ([II Thess. 1:5-10](#))
- Prayer for God's power. ([II Thess. 1:11-12](#))

Additional Notes:

Internet Resources:

[The Bible Project: I Thessalonians](#); [Poster](#);
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