



# GRACE

COMMUNITY CHURCH













***THIS WILL HAPPEN***

**TRUE**

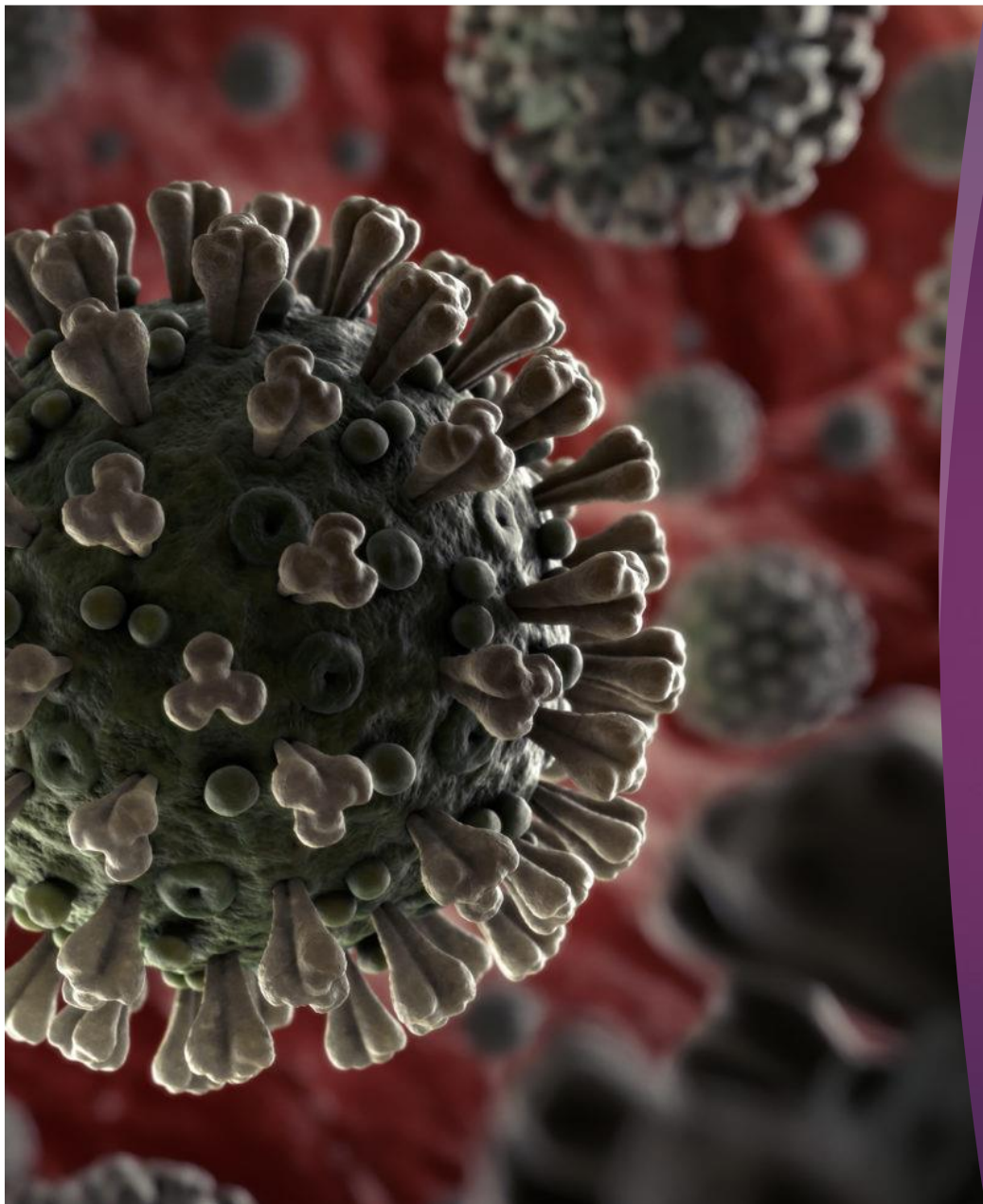


Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians



God who is a person, who communicates, has thoughts and plans, and initiates contact with us.





I want to do the  
**experiment!**

“God,  
please **speak** to me  
through your **word.**”

If God wrote a book,  
wouldn't it make  
sense to start there in  
our search for his  
answers?





## 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2, NIV

*<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silas and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in  
God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ:*

*<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God  
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:3, NIV

<sup>3</sup> We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.



## 2 Thessalonians 1:4, NIV

*<sup>4</sup>Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:5-6, NIV

*<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you.*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:7a, NIV

*7 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.*



## 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-8, NIV

... *This will happen* when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.  
⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:9, NIV

*⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:10, NIV

*<sup>10</sup> on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.*



## 2 Thessalonians 1:11, NIV

*11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:12, NIV

*<sup>12</sup> 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.*

# How much longer?

Depends on how quickly we learn our COVID lessons?





# 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

- **God** himself will guide you into maturity  
—*and that's really powerful.*
- **Jesus** will be glorified  
—*and that's really good.*
- **You** will be part of something incredible  
➤ —*and that's really forever.*

**God** himself will guide you into maturity  
—and that's *really powerful*

- **The cast of this divine drama:**
  - **Paul** saw the resurrected Jesus.
  - **Silas & Tim:** “faithful men, in training.”
  - **Thessalonians**—NE coast of modern Greece. They had worshipped:
    - **Dionysius** (Bacchus); **Serapis**; **Caesar** worship.
  - **God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ.**

# Grace & peace

- ▶ *Kindness & wholeness, or*
- ▶ *Compassion & reconciliation.*
- ▶ **Grace** and **peace** made the Thessalonians God's own family.
- ▶ God had guided them to himself and called them into his family.





GOD MADE HIM WHO HAD NO SIN TO BE  
SIN FOR US, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT  
BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 -



# Real faith v. shallow agreement

- Forgive my past, but don't touch my choices today, my future or my money.
- People who trust God completely include their future when it would be so much easier to quit, bail out, fit in.
- We must have a theology of suffering.

# ***This will happen!***

- ▶ God will guide his people to himself, and God will guide his people into growth especially through hard times.

*Grace and peace to you from God, the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*



# Ephesians 2:6-7, NIV

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show **the incomparable riches of his grace**, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**Jesus** will be glorified  
—and that's *really good*

➤ **Words that pop** (vs. 5-10):

- **Persevere & Believe**
- **Worthy & Glory**

*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.*

**God is just.**

**Jesus** will be glorified  
—and that's *really good*

- **God's judgment is right... God is just.**
  - ***"Nobody's perfect!" It's much worse!***
  - ***Self-doubt or confidence?***
  - ***Imperfection and outright rebellion.***
  - ***Our choices are more than mistakes; they are sins.***

**Jesus** will be glorified  
—and that's *really good*

➤ **This will happen:**

- ***You will be counted worthy by God.***
- ***Jesus will be glorified in his holy people.***
- ***You will be part of his holy people.***
- ***How? God is just! What is paid is paid!***



**Jesus** will be glorified  
—and that's *really good*

- **When Jesus comes with his angels:**
  - *He will punish those who do not know God—they do not obey the gospel.*
  - *Eternal life = with God forever.*
  - *Destruction = apart from God forever.*
  - *Christ wept over the unbelieving. How ought we respond?*

# *This will happen!*

- ▶ Jesus will be glorified when he returns.
- ▶ Jesus death means we will be judged “worthy” because our sin-debt is paid and we are “clothed” in the perfect righteousness of Christ.
- ▶ Those without Christ are “unworthy” and excluded from God’s presence

**You** will be part of something incredible  
—and that's *really forever*.

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you,  
that our God may make you worthy of his  
calling ...*

- **Who makes believers “worthy” of God’s calling?**
- **How does that happen?**
- **The importance of prayer, ... and suffering.**
- **We grow to want God more than comfort.**

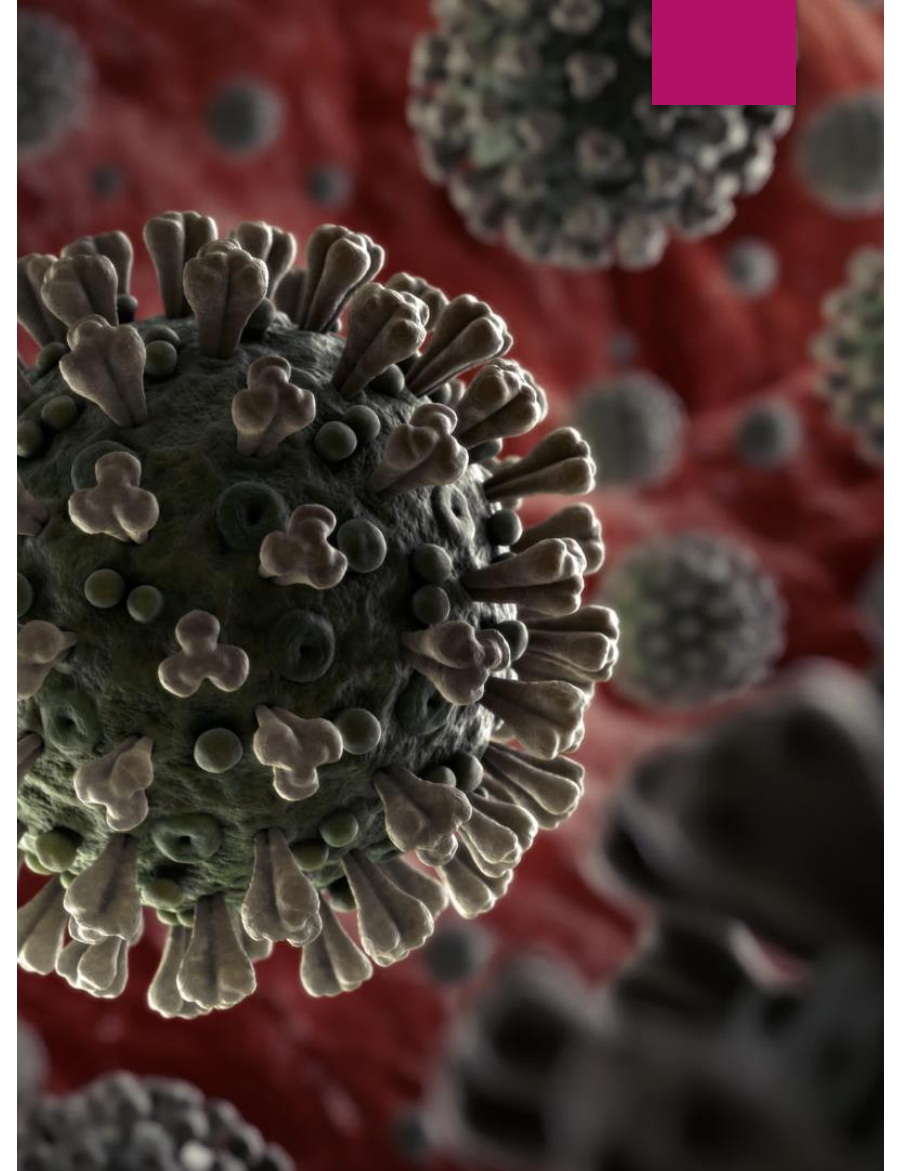
# *This will happen!*

- ▶ God will preserve and protect you to be worthy in his presence because of Jesus' sacrifice and perfect life.
- ▶ God will work in your life to transform your desires and actions into things He delights to fulfill.



# ***THANK YOU!***

Nurses, doctors, aides,  
lab and x-ray techs,  
housekeeping,  
emergency responders,  
grocery clerks,  
pharmacy techs.



## 2 Thessalonians 1:12, NIV

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