

LESSON 2

OUT IN THE COLD

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1–12



1 If you were shopping for the following items, what defects would make you reject them?

A piece of fruit: _____

A house: _____

Clothes: _____

2 For what reasons do some people reject others?



Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:4 ☐ 1:4–6 ☐ 1:5 ☐ 1:5–7

3 How is our society like the Thessalonian society?

4 What were the Christians living in Thessalonica experiencing (1:4–6)?

5 How did Paul encourage them (1:5–10)?

Much of what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians dealt directly with persecution. Because they believed in Christ, they were persecuted by friends, misunderstood by acquaintances, and scorned by work associates. Paul encouraged them to continue to trust God. In the end, God would reward those who believed in him and punish those who rejected and attacked his followers. It is easy to get discouraged when people reject or turn cold toward you because they have rejected God, his Word, his people, or his ways. At times the pain of rejection can be acute. But when you trust God, he gives you the grace to continue.



6 What similarities do you see between your circumstances and those of the Thessalonian believers?

7 How can Christians and churches benefit from persecution?



8 What do believers need to remember most when they are persecuted for their faith?

9 What are you tempted to do when you are persecuted (regardless of what you are persecuted for)?

10 In what situations or at what times might you be persecuted for your faith in Christ?

11 What will help you keep your focus on Christ when you respond to persecution?

12 When your faith or values clash with those of others, what might you say or do in response to glorify God and be respectful to others?

13 In what situations over the next few days might you be persecuted for your faith?



14 What will help you be prepared?

A What made Paul thankful for the Thessalonians (1:3, 4)? What can you do to become a person for whom others thank God?

B When will God give his people relief from persecution (1:6, 7)? How can God use suffering and persecution in your life?

C What will happen to those who don't know Christ when he returns (1:6–10)? What can you do to help change the fate of an unbeliever you know?

MORE
for studying
other themes
in this section