

## WHO WERE THE THESSALONIANS?

### 2 Thessalonians 1:1-3

#### I. THE PEOPLE

**The City:** Thessalonica is a large city known for its culture and its commerce

**The Church:** The church was founded by Paul in the midst of strong opposition (*Acts 17:1-10*)

**The Correspondence:** This letter was written from Corinth several months after the first letter

#### II. THE PROBLEM

**They knew about the promise of Christ's second coming** (*1 Thess.1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-17; 5:23; 2 Thess.2:1*)

**But, because they were suffering great persecution, they thought the Day of the Lord had already come** (*2 Thess.2:2*)

#### III. THE PERSPECTIVE

**Their security was in God and in Christ** (*2 Thess.1:1,2*)

**Their faith was increasing greatly** (*2 Thess.1:3*)

**Their love for God and each other went beyond human expectations** (*2 Thess.1:3*)

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY APPLICATION

### The Second Coming of Christ

Don't allow everyday circumstances to diminish your expectation of Christ's second coming

Recognize that it is natural to wonder why His return is delayed

– But remember His promise is secure - He will come again.

### The Day of The Lord

This will be a time of unprecedented trouble on the earth

It has been spoken about for thousands of years (*Isa.13:6, Ezek.30:1-3; Joel 1:1,15; 2:1,11; 3:14; Amos 5:18-20; Ob.15; Zeph.1:7-2:3; Zech.12-14; Mal.4:1; Acts 2:20; 1 Thess.5:2; 2 Thess.2:2; 2 Pet.3:18*)

If you are a believer, you have nothing to fear – you will be delivered before this time

If you are not yet a believer, you have everything to fear – don't delay – put your faith in Christ.

### For Today

Know that your security rests in God and the Lord Jesus Christ, not on your circumstances

Trust God to do great things in your life

Seek ways to allow Christ to manifest His love through you