

**Living in Light of Christ's Return**  
**Developing an Eternal Perspective for Living**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 (page 821)**

**Sunday, February 7, 2010**

**Frank Mascaro**

**Background:**

The apostle Paul founded the church at Thessalonica during his second missionary journey around 51 A.D. (Acts 16-17)

The church was founded amid much opposition (Acts 17:1-9)

The purpose of his writing to this church is:

- To provide encouragement in their persecution (1:1-12)
- To correct false teaching about the Lord's return (2:1-17)
- To correct their behavior in light of the truth (3:1-18)

**Living in light of Christ's return means gaining a new perspective about:**

- persevering in troubles (vs 3-5)
  - My faith becomes stronger through testing (Rom 5:3-5)
  - My love becomes deeper through suffering with others (John 15:17-19; Heb 13:3)
- the certainty of God's justice (vs 6-7a)
  - God will be just to repay those who afflict others (Rom 12:9)
  - God will be just to relieve those who have been afflicted (Luke 18:6-8)
- the timing of God's judgment (vs 7b-10)
  - When? At the revealing of Jesus from heaven (Rev 19:11-16)
  - How? By everlasting separation from God (Rev 20:11-15)
- the importance of praying for others (vs 11-12)
  - In order to fulfill our calling to be like Christ (Rom 8:29)
  - In order that we honor Christ with our lives (1 Pet 2:12)

**Perspective:** I am to live faithfully *today* and trust God to take care of *tomorrow* (Matt 6:33-34)

**Thinking it Through...**

When challenges come into my life, do I ask God for *lighter burdens* or a *stronger back*? Or when times get tough, do I say it's not worth it