

Williamsburg Community Chapel Men's Breakfast



April 26, 2019

SPECIAL DIGITAL COVER

Sports Illustrated

HOOS NO. 1!

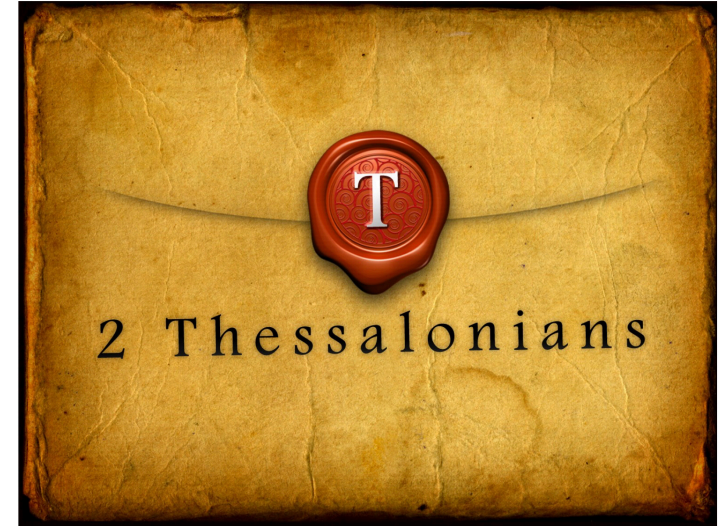
**VIRGINIA'S
MAGICAL YEAR**
From Ultimate Depths
to Unprecedented Heights

BY ANDY STAPLES
PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG NELSON

REDEEMED

Kyle Guy won the semifinal with three clutch free throws, then dropped 24 against Texas Tech to earn Final Four MOP honors and help bring Virginia its first NCAA title.

The Book of 2 Thessalonians



#11 – *Introduction to 2 Thessalonians*
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

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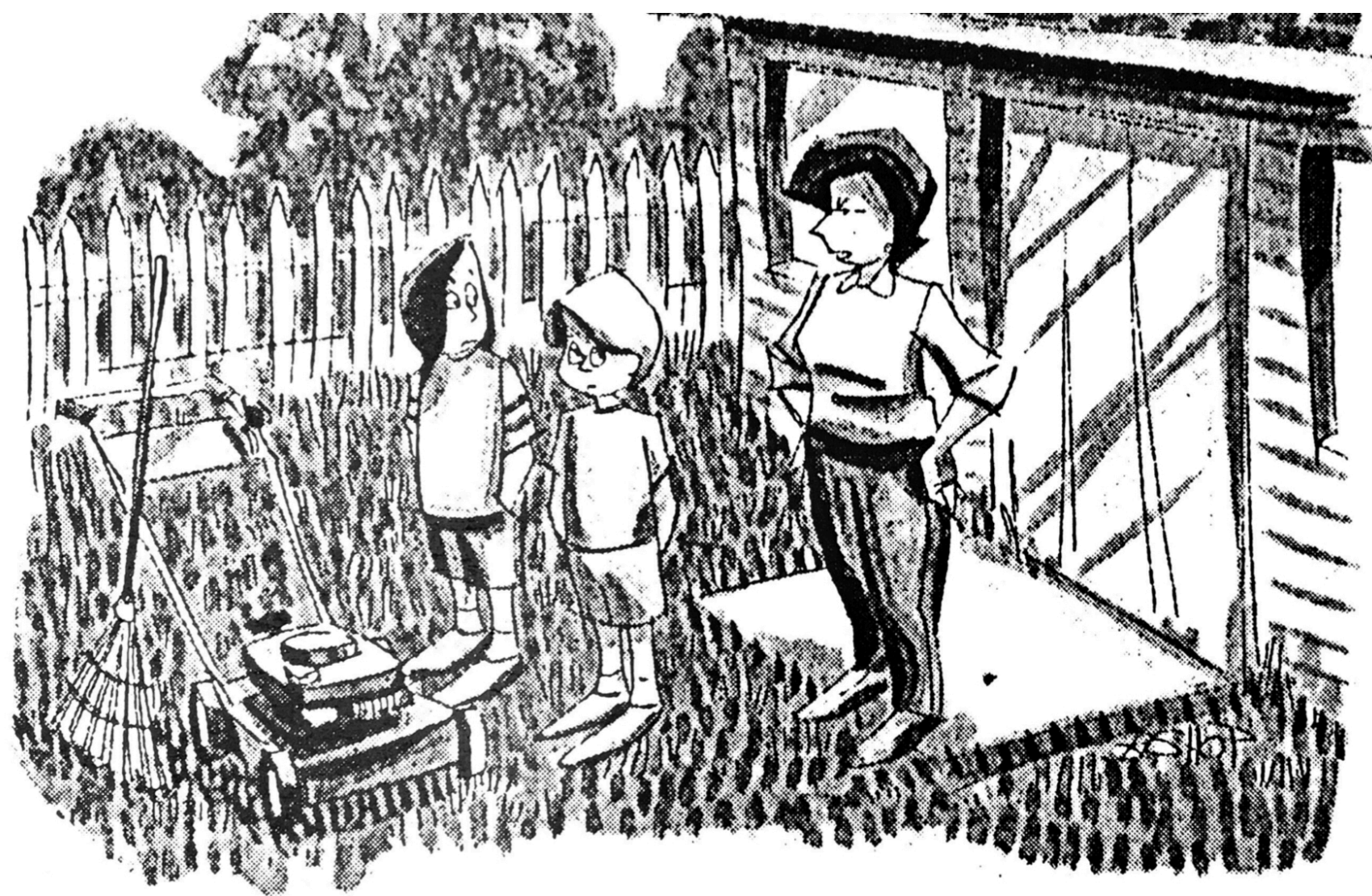
Introduction to 2 Thessalonians: Background & Brief Review

- ***Authors:*** Paul, Silas, & Timothy.
- ***Date:*** c. A.D. 52
- ***Recipients:*** The Church at Thessalonica, which Paul planted during his second missionary journey (c. A.D. 49-51; see *Acts 17:1-9*)
- ***Purpose:*** To *correct false teaching* about the return of Christ and to *encourage faithful and diligent living* until the return of Christ.



Thessalonica

Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 49-51)



“Yes, it is exciting how near the minister thinks the Second Coming is, and, no, in that case mowing the lawn would *not* be a waste of time.”

**Jesus
is coming!
Look busy.**

1 Thessalonians is *our call to wait well for Christ's return.*

What are you waiting for?

How are you waiting for it?

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

2 Thessalonians is
our reminder to wait
well for Christ's return.

Structure of 2 Thessalonians:

Ch. 1 – Greeting, gratitude, and coming judgment.

Ch. 2 – The coming of the man of lawlessness.

Ch. 3 – Live diligently as you wait (for the return of Christ).

Themes of 2 Thessalonians:

- Additional focus on **the return of Jesus** (1:7-10; 2:1ff)
- References to “**standing firm**”/enduring persecution and “**affliction**” (1:4, 6-7; 2:15; 3:2; *see Acts 17:5-9*)
- References to the “**truth,**” “**gospel,**” “**word of the Lord,**” (1:8; 2:10-11, 13-14; 3:1)
- References to “**grace**” (1:2, 12; 2:16; 3:18)
- References to “**idleness**” (3:6, 11)
- Sincere **gratitude** for the Thessalonians (1:3-4; 2:13)
- Several “**benediction prayers**” throughout the letter (1:11-12; 2:16; 3:4, 16-18).

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

1) Faithful living = abundant faith and increasing love (1:3).

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

2) Affliction is to be expected (1:4).

1 Thessalonians 1:6

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

(See also Acts 17:5-7)

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

Steadfastness (1:4) “is the patience that is willing to live for God and accept whatever He sends your way, knowing that all things work together for good. It is the patience that has as its goal coming into God’s presence someday. This enables you to get over the rough places that come into your life ... a great many people try to get out from under the problems and difficulties. The person who is patient (or steadfast) is able to stay under, and he keeps on carrying the load ... God disciplines His children for their development, for their growth, that they might have patience.”

- J. Vernon McGee

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

3) False believing leads to faulty living.

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

“The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and substituted for it one so low, so ignoble (low in character; dishonorable) ... With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence ... If we would bring back spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is ... Among the sins to which the human heart is prone, hardly any other is more hateful to God than idolatry ... The idolatrous heart assumes that God is other than He is ... and substitutes for the true God one made after its own likeness ...

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

... Before the Christian Church goes into eclipse (decline) anywhere there must first be a corrupting of her simple basic theology. She simply gets a wrong answer to the question, 'What is God like?' and goes on from there ... What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

- **A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy***

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

3) False believing leads to faulty living.

1 Timothy 4:16

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

Questions:

- 1) How have you experienced abundant faith and increasing love in your Christian life lately?
- 2) Do you agree that affliction should be expected in the Christian life? Why or why not?
- 3) Do you agree that “false believing leads to faulty living?” Why or why not?

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

- **Next Week:** *2 Thessalonians 1:5-12*
- **Assignment:** Read 2 Thessalonians
- **2 Thessalonians** is *our reminder to wait well for Christ's return.*
- Have a great week of waiting well.

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