

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

First RPC Durham

I. Introduction to the Letter (v 1a).

- A.** Author and Date — *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy* (50-51 AD)
- B.** Occasion: Paul answers questions regarding claims of false teachers who said that Christ had already come (2:2-3a).
 - 1)** Comfort (1:3-12)
 - 2)** Instruction (2:1-17)
 - 3)** Correction (3:6-15)
- C.** Thematic Verses summarizing the thesis of the letter are 2:13b-15.
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** We are to read the Bible as the very Word of God
 - 2)** We are to read the Bible with understanding and delight
 - a)** Not overlooking any of God's Word.
 - b)** What do I do when I do not understand a passage? (Psa 119:18; Phil 3:16-17; *WCF* 1.7).

II. The Word of God Is Given to the Church (v 1b).

- A.** Identity of the Church: Union with Christ
 - 1)** Union with Christ further described, that we should delight in the grace of God: Forensically (Col 2:13-14), Filially (Eph 5:25-27), Finally (2 Pt 1:4a).
 - 2)** We have union with Christ by the will of the Father and the work of the Spirit (1 Pt 1:2).
- B.** Joy of the Church: Communion with the Triune God (1 Jn 1:3-4)
- C.** Nature of the Church: Catholic, Local, Regional
 - 1)** The Catholicity of the Church (*Heidelberg Catechism* 54)
 - 2)** The Church as Local (Col 4:16)
 - 3)** The Church as Regional (1 Tim 4:14; Gal 1:2)
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** We need the Word of God.
 - 2)** We are the stewards of what God has given us (2 Kgs 22:8).
 - a)** Which is a central command of 2 Thess. (2:15; 3:6, 14)
 - b)** We are to teach our children these truths, that they should apprehend them by faith even before they comprehend them with their minds (Psa 78:5-7)
 - c)** Warning: We are to hold fast to the teaching of God's

Word, as it is rightfully confessed by the Church, lest we fall prey to heresy and immorality (2 Tim 1:13)

3) We are not to be idle with the Word**III. The Word of God as a Means of Grace (v 2)**

- A.** What is to be understood by the phrase means of grace? (*Larger Catechism* 154).
- B.** Why is the Word of God a means of grace?
 - 1)** Because it is from God Himself (Psa 18:30)
 - 2)** Consider the everlasting and unchanging character of God.
 - a)** His wisdom (Rom 11:3)
 - b)** His goodness (Psa 136:1)
 - c)** His impassibility (Acts 14:15; *WCF* 2.1)
- C.** Why is the Word the primary means of grace? (Psa 29:3; 1 Cor 11:23-25; Mt 6:9; Lk 11:2; Rom 8:26).
- D.** How is the Word such a blessing?
 - 1)** By communicating to us grace and peace
 - a)** *Grace*
 - i.** We are in need of grace.
 - ii.** This grace must come from God.
 - iii.** Answering the Objection: But I do not feel that I a recipient of grace! (Song 5:2-6; 1 Kgs 19:10; Song 3:1-4; Lk 11:5-13)
 - b)** *Peace*
 - i.** We are in need of peace.
 - ii.** This peace must come from God.
 - iii.** Answering the Objection: But I do not feel peace! (Rom 5:1; Phil 4:6-7)
 - 2)** This is the purpose of all Scripture and sermons — The Gospel; and the Law, with its three uses: Instructor to point us to Christ, Bridle to restrain sin (Dt 4:8; Pr 14:34), and the rule of life
- E.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** We are to hear and read the Word of God with faith and obedience (*Larger Catechism* 157; Lk 4:16-17)
 - 2)** We are to reflect upon God's Word with regularly.
 - 3)** We are to respond to God's Word with faith.