

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

### Salutation and Greeting [1:1-2]

- Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Παῦλος καὶ Σιλουανὸς καὶ Τιμόθεος τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ Θεσσαλονικέων ἐν θεῷ πατρὶ  
ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ,
  - Paul starts off the letter by identifying himself as the primary author.
  - Paul then identifies two men, Silvanus and Timothy, who also contributed to this letter.
  - Silvanus is the same person who Luke referred to as Silas in Acts [Acts 15:22-40; 16:19-31; 17:1-10].
  - Silas is Semitic and Silvanus is the Latin rendering used by Paul and Peter [1 Pet 5:12].
  - Silas/Silvanus was quite likely Paul's amanuensis for this letter but also contributed to it.
  - Timothy had recently given a status report to Paul after visiting the church in Thessalonica [1 Thess 3:1-2, 6].
  - Clearly, Timothy had some input regarding the topics and content of this letter.
  - Paul then identifies the primary audience for this letter as the church of the Thessalonians.
  - As with his other letters, Paul intended for this letter to be read elsewhere [Col 4:16].
  - Paul describes the Thessalonian church as "in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ".
  - In Paul's letters he often uses the term "in Christ" to describe the positional reality of believers.
  - This phrase, as it is used here, must be understood to refer to positional truth as well.
  - In addition, this clearly shows that Paul views Jesus as equal to God the Father.
  - Being "in God our Father" describes the security, love and strength of the believers' position.
  - Being "in the Lord Jesus Christ" emphasizes the servant/Lord relationship of the believers' position.
- Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς [ἡμῶν] καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.
  - The phrase "grace to you and peace" was typical for greetings in Paul's time no matter who the recipients might be.
  - Paul uses this expression 10 times in his letters [Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 2 Cor 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; Ph 1:2; Col 1:2; 1 Th 1:1; Phlm 3].
  - As we can see, Paul added the phrase "God our Father" or "God the Father" to all but one of these greetings and the phrase "the Lord Jesus Christ" to all but two.
  - In any and every case, Paul extends his heartfelt greetings to the saints he is writing to.
  - Notably, grace always precedes peace in the N.T.
  - Theologically, God's grace is the basis for and leads to man's peace.