

Study 1 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Can I know for sure that I will go to heaven?

This is a question that troubled the Thessalonians to such an extent that even after the comfort of his first letter, Paul had to write again and give further encouragement. It was difficult for these young Christians to believe that the suffering of their present life would really be followed by the eternal joy of heaven.

Perhaps you also wonder if heaven really exists and if you can be sure of going there. If so, you will find Paul writing this second letter directly to you.

1. Have you ever met a person and gone away thinking, “they must be a Christian.” What gave you that impression?

2. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12. What good things does Paul notice about the lives of the Thessalonians? (v 3-4)

3. Why do you think that in times of persecution, some people’s faith and love grows while others’ fails? (v4)

How can you make sure that yours is the kind that will grow?

4. What is the “evidence that God’s judgement is right”? (v5).

5. “Suffering – is not to be thought of as evidence that God has forsaken us but as evidence that God is with us.” How has God been evident in your times of suffering?