

3-13-22

# 1st Thessalonians

2:12 We encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1:1-10 – Escape the Coming Wrath

† 2:1-12 – How Paul Loved, pt 1

2:13-20 – How Paul Loved, pt 2

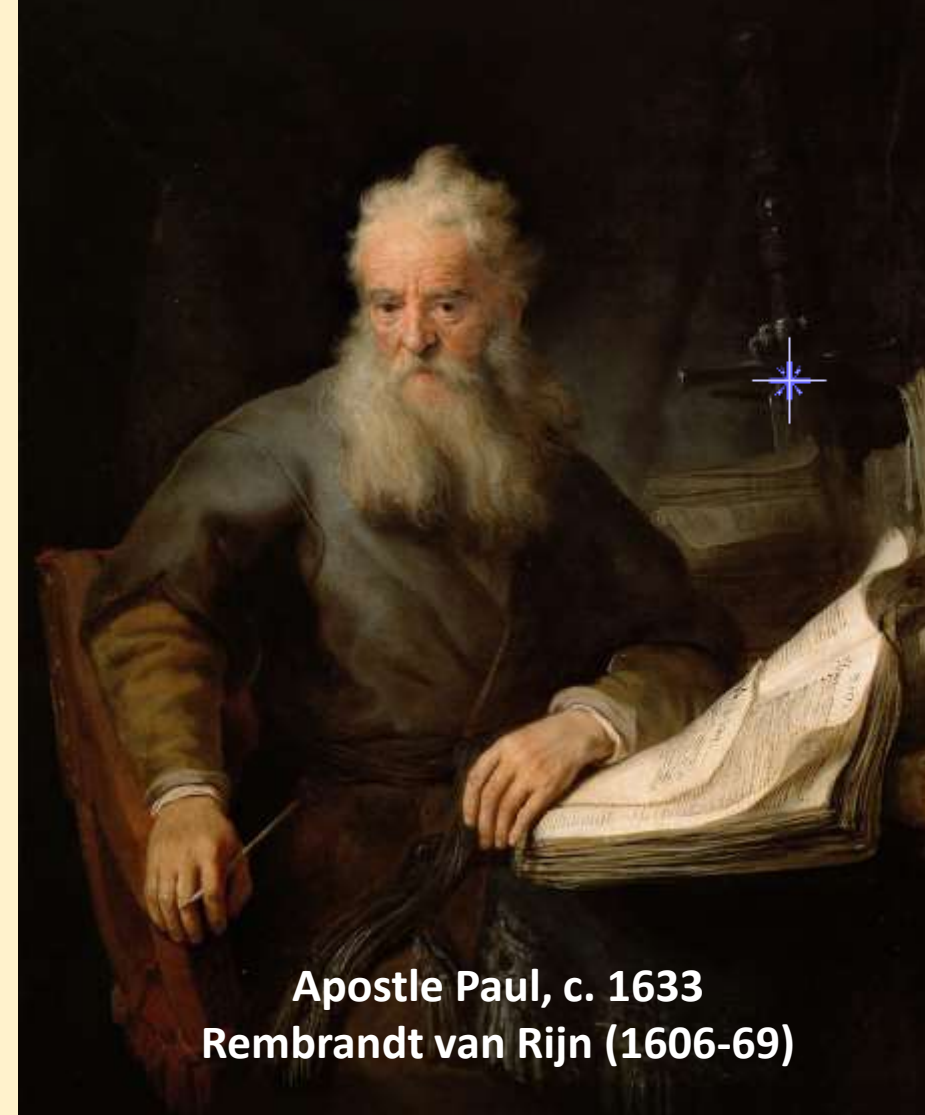
3:1-14 – Your Pastor's Heart

4:1-12 – How Holy Can You Be?

4:13-18 – Our Heavenly Rest

5:1-11 – Day of the Lord ... Are You Woke?

5:12-24 – Blameless at His Coming



Apostle Paul, c. 1633  
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class

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**Alternate Title**

# **How We Loved Among You**

***Part 1***

**or**





**Of the Letters of Love ... 1 Thessalonians**

**Betrays a Great Gentle Affection**

**Chapter 2:1-12 and 2:13-20 = How We Lived**

## **In Great Love**

**This is Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey**

**1st Journey – from Antioch, Cyprus, Galatia**

**2nd from Antioch through Asia Minor, Greece,  
and back again ... 2,700 miles**





**THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL**  
 ACTS 13:4-14:28

- City
- ← Paul's route
- Via Sebaste



Paul establishes churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea

Paul imprisoned

Luke joins Paul

Paul brought on charges before Gallio

Paul receives vision that encourages him to travel to Macedonia

Paul speaks to the Areopagus

Paul asks Timothy to join him in his work

Paul returned from Jerusalem to plan his next venture

Jerusalem Conference, AD 49, (Acts 15:1-30; Gal 2:1-21)



John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* (1678)

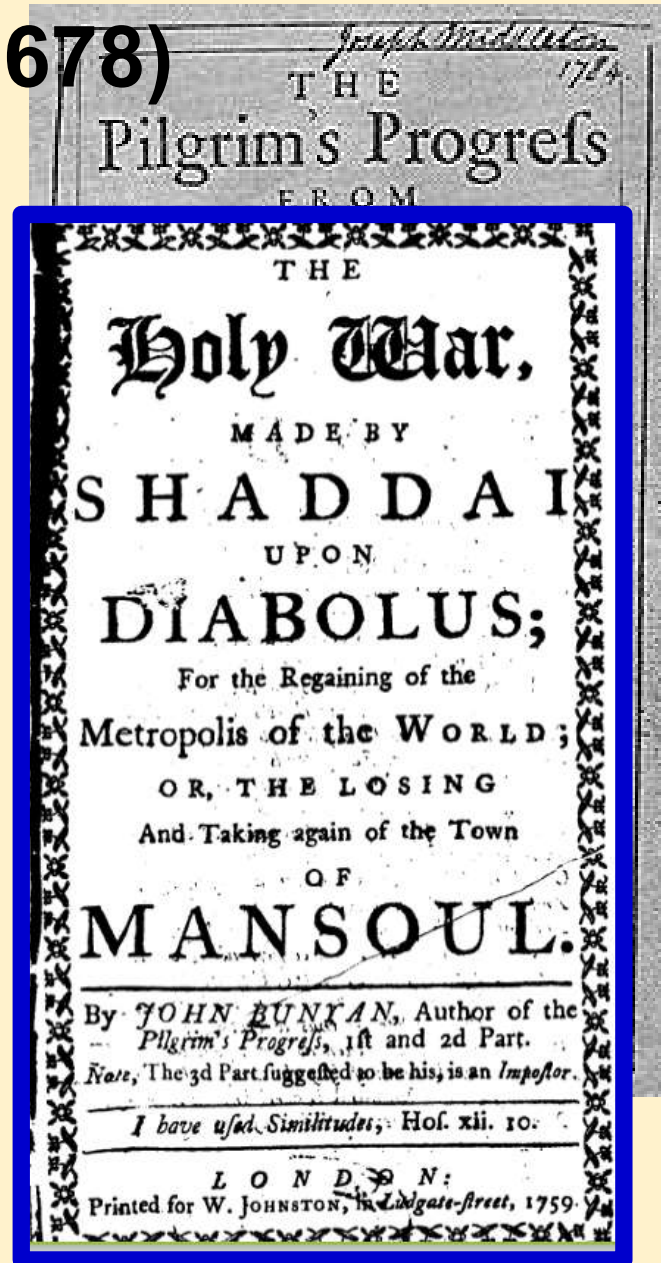
2nd most read book next to the KJV –  
pilgrim goes on a journey by allegory

Bunyan also wrote *The Holy War* (1682),  
another book by allegory ...

The full title is so intriguing ...

**Holy War Made by King Shaddai Upon  
Diabolus, to Regain the Metropolis of the  
World, or, The Losing & Taking Again of**

**the Town of Mansoul**



# Holy War Made by King Shaddai Upon Diabolus ... the Town of Mansoul

Allegory has a similar host of characters

Perfect town, bears image of Shaddai

Has five gates and could never be taken

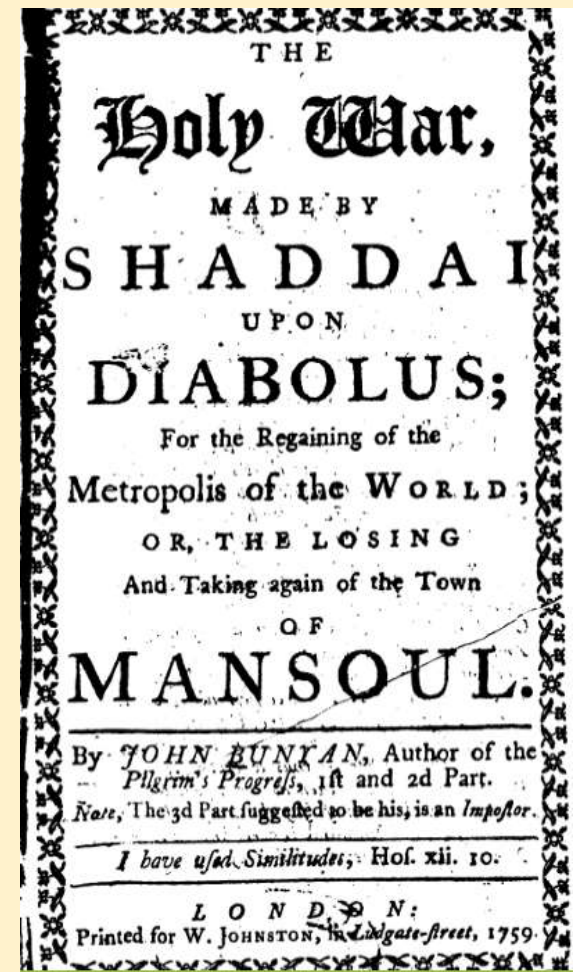
Those from the inside allow in *Diabolus*


those siding are called *Diabolonians*

They reject the Kingship of Shaddai

Shaddai sends his son *Emmanuel* to reclaim it

**Remember – Town of Mansoul**





<sup>1</sup> For you yourselves know, brothers, that our visit with you was **not without result.**

After the introduction ... and Waiting for Christ

Escape the Coming Wrath with **Faith** and **Hope** in **Resurrection** that Empowers **Love** ...

Their visit was **“not without result”**

What Love is this?

Paul shares with them what **THEY KNOW**

Reminds them of what **THEY KNOW**

Tell me, if you can, **WHEN YOU** could have said that?





**1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our visit with you was not without result.**

**2 On the contrary, after we had previously suffered, and we were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.**

**Acts 16 ... Paul & friends heal a young woman making money by divination –**

**They are Beaten ... Jailed ... asked to leave**

**Acts 17 ... Paul spent 3 Sabbaths in Thessalonica**

**Three Weeks**





## **Three Weeks?**

**Spends ONLY 3 Sabbaths in Thessalonica**

**Leads me to believe something else ...**

**But from 1 Thessalonians ...**

**How do you get “DEAR” to anyone after only**

## **Three Weeks?**

**I’ve not known anyone for that long ...**

**That I would say all this too ...**



How do you get “DEAR” to anyone after only

**Three Weeks?**

What takes place to foster this Love Letter?

How does this level of affection accrue?

I suspect there was a church there already

Gospel spread to this Capital City already

The Great Paul’s REPUTATION paved the way

When Paul arrived ... **Paul FED the Hungry!**



Think with me for a moment ... when ... when

## We Need an Expert

Ret. 4-Star Gen. Jack Keane spoke on HOW the 40-mile Russian convoy stalled – you *knew*





**Think with me for a moment ...**

# **When Need an Expert**

**Same is true everywhere ...**


✿ **Banking**

✿ **Police Detective Work**

✿ **Forestry**

✿ **Engineering**





<sup>2</sup> On the contrary, after we had previously suffered, and we were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.

Let me rephrase this introduction to Great Love


There is a GREAT affinity ... Great Fellowship

**When We Share Similar Suffering**

They Know He Suffered ... when told not to ...

That EVIL Order to NOT to share the truth ...

**Embodened Them**



**3 For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive.**

**4 Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but rather God, who examines our hearts.**

**Paul recalls again what THEY KNOW ...**

- ✓ They KNEW how sincere he was**
- ✓ They KNEW he spoke as an expert**
- ✓ They KNEW his heart was right**





**5 For we never used flattering speech, as you know,  
or had greedy motives — God is our witness —**

**Paul used no tricks ... to cosmopolitan people**

**They were his witnesses too ...**

**Thessalonica – Capital of Macedonia**

**Major city on the Roman Road *Via Egnatia***

**They KNEW many**

- ✓ **Big-mouthed Swindlers**
- ✓ **Fast-talking Crooks**





**6 and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others.**

**7 Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children.**

**You, too, KNOW when people are arrogant**

**Sometimes it's not even arrogant ...**

**Paul and Silas were GENTLE as**

**Nursing Mothers**

**We know what that means ... everyone does**



## **Nursing Mothers**

**But most importantly ... critically important  
In this letter of their Living Love  
The Thessalonian Church**



**EXPERIENCED**

**That LOVE**

**Don't make this too feminine *ONLY* ...**

**Paul told them what they *KNEW* already ...**

# Experienced Love



Please ... do not miss this ...

To help you NOT forget this ... let me ask you

When was the last time YOU experienced such?

Or ... better yet ...

When was the last time YOU *explained*

**A Great LOVE**

That your people KNEW was true ...

**Sincere ... Honest ... Felt?**

**<sup>7</sup> Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children.**

**When has that been said of YOU?**

**Who could say that of YOU?**


**Worse—how many **CAN** say that of YOU?**

**That you were so sensitive to a person's**

**Every Move & Teardrop**







<sup>8</sup> We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also **our own lives**, because you had become **dear** to us.

**Goodness ... you see this ... surely you do!!!**

**Oh ... to help you see it more clearly ...**


**Let me ask YOU ...**

**When was the last time your CHURCH**

**Felt Like FAMILY?**

**Oh ... oh my ... not after three weeks!**

**Only have after **EXTRAORDINARY** fellowship**



**9 For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you.**

**10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers.**


**Paul & Silas ... confirmed to the young church**

**WHAT they knew ... had heard ... from abroad**

**Then as Paul & Silas LIVED their LOVE ...**

**The Church GREW to be a Great Witness ...**

**They Knew by Paul's LOVE**



<sup>11</sup> As you know, like a father with his own children,  
<sup>12</sup> we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one  
of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.


**Paul reflects BACK to the Thessalonians  
what they may have had trouble seeing**

**In Themselves**

**You see then ... surely you do ... what Paul did  
Paul helped THEM see better their own LOVE**

**See how their LOVE spread in Macedonia**





**On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884  
Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God**

**When it has thus entered into the  
understanding and affected the  
conscience, the word of God usually arouses  
the emotions.**

**Fear is awakened, and hope is excited.**

**The man begins to feel as he never felt before.**





On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884

Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God

**His whole manhood is brought  
under the heavenly spell;**

**his very flesh doth creep in harmony with the  
amazement of his soul.**

**He wonders and dreads, weeps and quivers,  
hopes and doubts;**

**but no, emotion is asleep; life is in all.**



On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884

Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God

**When a tear rises to his eye**

**he brushes it away, but it is soon  
succeeded by another.**

**Repentance calls forth one after another of  
these her sentinels.**

**The proud man is broken down;  
the hard man is softened.**





**On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884**

**Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God**

**Love of God in providing a Saviour,  
the unsearchable riches of divine  
grace in passing by transgression, iniquity ...  
—these things amaze & overwhelm the penitent.  
He finds himself suddenly dissolved, where  
aforetime he was hard as adamant  
for the word is entering into him and exercising its  
softening power.**



On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884

Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God

**By-and-by the entrance is complete;  
for the truth carries the**

**central castle of Mansoul,  
and captures his heart.**

**He who once hated the gospel now loves it.**

**At first he loves it, hoping that it may be his,  
though fearing the reverse;**



On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884

Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God

**yet owning ... unsure of  
no blessing to himself,**

**yet it was a lovable and desirable thing.**

**By-and-by the man ventures to grasp it,  
encouraged by the word that bids him**

**lay hold on eternal life.**

**One who in digging his land finds a treasure,**





On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884

Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God

**One who in digging his land finds a  
treasure,**

**first looks about for fear**

**lest some one else should claim it;  
anon he dares to examine his prize more carefully,  
at length he bears it in his bosom to his own home.**




On the Lord's day October 26th, 1884

Charles H. Spurgeon commented on  
the Christian Coming to God

**So is it with the gospel; when a man finds it by the understanding, he soon embraces it with his heart; and, believe me, if it once gets into the heart, the arch-enemy himself will never get it out again. Oh, that such an entrance with the gospel might commence the spiritual life of all here present ...**





**11 As you know, like a father with his own children,  
12 we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of  
you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own  
kingdom and glory.**

**Part of great discipleship is helping others see**

**Love In Themselves**

**You see then ... surely you do ... what Paul did**

**Paul wrote a subtle **LOVE Letter** explaining how**

**They can see their own **LOVE****



question remains for YOU and me,

**Can You See Your LOVE**

More importantly, have you ... will you

Help someone else ...

**Family, Friend, Stranger**

See their own **LOVE** for God

**More Clearly Today**

**than They Did Yesterday?**

