**TO THE EKKLESIA OF THE BRIDGE PART 2**

(1 Thessalonians 2:1-13)

Illustration: (Charles Dickens in “*Tale of Two Cities*” depicts the times in which our story occurs:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,

It was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness. It was the epic of belief; it was the epic of unbelief. It was the season of light; it was the season of darkness. It was the spring of hope; it was the winter of despair. We had everything before us; we had nothing before us. We were all going direct to heaven; we were going to the other place.)

1. **We could well apply this to our times today; and the time when the Thessalonian Ekklesia was born.**
2. Paul was living in an age of despair.
3. Paganism ruled the day.
4. Great fear of the future, superstition, astrology and fate.
5. This Ekklesia was born in a hostile environment.
6. WE CAN make these the best of times or the worst of times for the **GOSPEL**!
7. **Again, I was setting in my prayer chair this week seeking what I was supposed to teach.**
8. Heard a whisper, “*Stop and ponder chapter two; it is part of My person letter to you*.”
9. Sometimes Holy Spirit commending us; other times a call to our Ekklesia.
10. I don’t know if this will be the last; or whether He will ask me to keep going.
11. I will let you know when I do (lol)!
12. **1 Thessalonians 1:1-13**.
13. ***Vs. 1-2, “You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you His gospel in the face of strong opposition***.”
14. **Abba through the words of Holy Spirit reminds us we are brothers and sisters.**
15. His now message is that it will take all of us.
16. That woman are key players in the Ekklesia.
17. **We had been treated outrageously in Philippi.**
18. **Acts 16:19-25a**, “*When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, ‘These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.’ The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight…*”
19. **About midnight** there was a violent earthquake where all prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose!
20. **Wounds often remain from the outrageous way others have treated you.**
21. From the church system, your families or even others close to you, you have trusted.
22. The power of your resurrected Lord is about to free you; and I will do so more and more as your persecution increases.
23. **God gave Paul the courage to preach at Thessalonica despite fierce opposition.**
24. I faced worse at Philippi and God saw me through it.
25. This persecution here won’t stop me either!
26. Yes, you often remember your wounds through suffering, but they only remind you of My provision! Hallelujah, AMEN!
27. No matter what happens I will see you through.
28. **It’s about midnight**!!
29. **Vs. 3-4, “*For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel*. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.”**
30. **The word used here for “appeal” has a very specific meaning.**
31. It was a military term used to encourage soldiers before going into battle.
32. This kind of encouragement was only used for hired soldiers going into battle.
33. For those fighting for truth and country life no appeal was necessary, Kingdom fight!
34. We don’t need to **be tricked**!!
35. **Shown a double message from this verse:**
36. **Speak the truth** to others for I approve you and entrust the gospel to you!
37. I am especially proud of you that you are willing to **fight for the truth** of My Kingdom!
38. You are not people pleasers but pleasers of Me, and I see your hearts!
39. **Vs. 5-7, “*You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you*. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you.”**
40. **I am proud that you are not like those who use flattery for their own gain.**
41. I’m not talking about honest compliments.
42. Trying to win others over to exploit them.
43. That is a strategy of the One World Religion.
44. I declare it is deception for a selfish end; it is the Jezebel spirit!
45. **Strong word: Transparency is the key to everything in the End Times.**
46. Watch for those who cloak who they really are; there will be demonic plants sent to you. Don’t fear you will recognize them.
47. The only praise you need is from Me, who is your witness! Yes, I see you!
48. In the context of **increased persecution**.
49. **The Ekklesia will be receiving more and more authority.**
50. Yes, you can assert your authority, but that is not what you are called to do.
51. As Apostles, or “*sent ones*” be **gentle**.
52. **Become one who gently nurses or feeds My baby believers.**
53. This is a call to be a trusted friend whose influence **lasts a lifetime**.
54. **Vs. 8-10, *So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed*.”**
55. **I AM your Lord and I care for you because I love you so much.**
56. On the earth I not only gave the truth, but I also gave My life as well.
57. Always remember what I went through for you on the cross.
58. My dearest bride, I ask you to give your life on earth to Me and share it with others.
59. You give some away and you keep some within. That’s sharing.
60. Please trust people again. Please…
61. **I and My Father are witnesses of how holy, righteous and blameless you are among those who believe.**
62. I AM your witness through any times of accusation.
63. I declare that you are holy, righteous and blameless before Me.
64. Begin to see yourself through My eyes.
65. My blood covers you and makes you whole.
66. **Vs. 11-13, “*For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe*.”**
67. **Read these verses and learn their lesson.**
68. This is how I deal with you as your loving heavenly father.
69. My beloved children I will encourage you, and comfort you and urge you to continue on the course you have been given.
70. Voices of condemnation are not My voice or My Son’s voice or Holy Spirit’s voice.
71. For some who are hearing My voice my love for you compels me to repeat these words of truth: voices of condemnation are not My voice or My Son’s voice or Holy Spirit’s voice.
72. **My voice is leading you to My Kingdom glory.**
73. Thank you, My bride for accepting My word as truth.
74. It is now working in your in miraculous ways and will continue as persecution increases.
75. **Let he who has an ear hear what the message I have shared over My End Time Ekklesia.**

**Conclusion**:

1. **This is what we will speak of the times we have been placed in:**

We made this the best of times,

We made this the age of wisdom,

We made this the epic of belief,

We made this the spring of hope,

We had everything before us,

We are all going direct to heaven.