

THE JUSTICE OF GOD  
--2<sup>nd</sup> THESSALONIANS 1:6-10--

INTRODUCTION:

I made the following statement last week: “All of God’s wrath against sin was poured out upon Christ on the cross. Not part of it—all of it.” I want to qualify that statement in light of today’s message. When I made that statement, I was talking about those who have put their faith in the Lord’s Jesus Christ for salvation. When we repent and come to faith in Christ’s death and resurrection there is no longer any wrath of God reserved for us because we have been declared righteous in the Lord Jesus.

With that said, there is a future day of judgment for those who refuse to repent and receive the free gift of salvation offered through the death and resurrection of the Lord’s Jesus. Paul speaks of this future judgment to encourage the Thessalonian believers as they endured intense persecution and afflictions. Paul encourages them to continue to persevere and to be steadfast in hope of a coming rest.

- I. THE RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:7b)
- a. Paul in this passage reminded the Thessalonian believers that the Lord Jesus Christ would \_\_\_\_\_ someday.
  - b. At His first advent the reality of His \_\_\_\_\_ was hidden, though Jesus was God incarnate. (John 1:10; Matthew 24:30)
  - c. In describing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul uses three phrases that confirm the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i. First, Paul writes that the Lord Jesus will be revealed from \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:11b)
    - ii. Second, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven on the Day of the Lord, He will not be \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 16:27; 24:31; 13:41-42, 49-50)
    - iii. Third, Paul writes that He will be revealed in flaming \_\_\_\_\_. (Hebrews 12:29)
  - d. These three phrases describing the revelation of the Lord Jesus at His second coming give us undeniable \_\_\_\_\_ of the deity of Jesus Christ.

- e. Paul in this passage gives us the two-fold nature of Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_.
  - i. Relief, rest, refreshment, and peace for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Retribution, judgment, punishment, and vengeance for \_\_\_\_\_.

- II. THE JUDGMENT OF UNBELIEVERS (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 1:6, 8-9)
- a. When the Lord Jesus is revealed, He will deal out \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers. (Romans 12:19)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ will Jesus deal out retribution?
  - c. To \_\_\_\_\_ will God deal out retribution? (Romans 1:18-21; Acts 17:30; Romans 1:5))
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ will God deal out His retribution on the ungodly?
  - e. Paul in this verse gives two conditions under which the ungodly will \_\_\_\_\_ their eternal sentence.
    - i. First, they will be forever away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord. (James 1:17)
    - ii. Second, the lost will also serve their sentence away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord’s power. (Revelation 14:11)
- III. THE RELIEF OF BELIEVERS (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:6a, 7, 10)
- a. The revelation of the Lord Jesus will not only bring retribution to unbelievers, but it will also give \_\_\_\_\_ to believers. (Matthew 11:28-29)
  - b. Paul has two other kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ in mind—both are also promised in Scripture.
    - i. First is \_\_\_\_\_ rest when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation.
    - ii. Second, there is a final rest promised in Scripture it is the \_\_\_\_\_ rest the redeemed enter into at death.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ are we promised relief and rest? (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:10; James 1:2-4; Romans 8:18; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:17)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ are those who are promised relief and rest? (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:12)

- e. \_\_\_\_\_ will this relief and rest come about? (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:20-21; Romans 8:18-19; Mathew 25:31-46)

CONCLUSION:

In this passage Paul speaks of the justice of God at the revealing of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire. God's justice will be fulfilled as those who do not know God and have not obeyed His gospel are fully repaid for their willful rejection of Jesus Christ. Their penalty will be eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. God's justice will also be fulfilled for those who are the redeemed as He grants them relief and eternal rest when He is glorified in His saints, and they marvel at His glory on display by all who have believed. These are the only two destinies for all of humanity, the destiny of eternal destruction or the destiny of eternal rest and glorification. Which destiny have you chosen?