

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

Going through struggles in life is not a bad thing. You will never get stronger and grow in your walk with Jesus until you learn to trust Him in every area of your life.

Last week we saw the young church of Thessalonica was being persecuted and Paul wrote to them with encouraging words. He taught them that:

God is glorified in our when we are thankful
God works as our faith grows
God reveals His power when we struggle
God gives us strength as we endure
God reveals His love for us, thru us
God reveals His strength in us when we suffer

As Paul is encouraging the believers in Thessalonica, he now teaches the church how suffering for the Lord effects them and the people that are persecuting them.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:6

since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

Do we think of righteousness being expressed with repayment?
If we do good things, sure. That deserves the payment of righteousness.

But Paul is telling us that ***it is a righteous thing for God to repay, with tribulation people that trouble you.***

It is quite common for us to see the injustices of the world and either complain to God or question Him by asking

"Why He doesn't do something about it?"

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

A question that comes many times from unbelievers that ask:

If there is a God, why doesn't He do something about all of the pain and heartache in the world? The bad things that seem to go unpunished?

We must remember a few things about the bad things that happen:

- Just because we don't see it or hear about it, it doesn't mean that God has ignored it.
- If it is something that the Lord hasn't dealt with yet, He will!

Paul is telling the church to trust in the Lord.

Remember, these young believers are being persecuted because they have decided to follow Jesus. They are living counter cultural!

We are in a culture today that everything happens at the snap of a finger.

- A bad Wi-Fi signal-waiting for something to download
- Waiting too long in the drive thru line at McDonalds-
- Waiting in the que to go into any shop

Our society has trained us to have a *I want it right now* culture. (this is pride)

Any injustice that happens today, we are ready to hang someone from a noose.

Is it actually an injustice or are we upset because we are not in control and things are not happening the way WE think it should happen? (pride)

Paul is telling us that it is righteous for God to take care of/repay ***with tribulation*** people ***that trouble you***.

Will God do what He says? Yes!

God speaks thru the prophet Ezekiel warning Israel that He is just!

Ezekiel 7:3-4

Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.

My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; But I will repay your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst; Then you shall know that I am the LORD!

If God says He will repay tribulations to people that trouble us, He will.

2 Thessalonians 1:7

and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

We ***who are troubled will receive rest***

Paul is including ***those who are troubled*** with himself, ***with us***.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

We know that Paul, Silas and Timothy were all persecuted at one time or another. They all will receive rest; we will receive rest. When?

when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

There is a revelation that happens, a revealing! **The Lord Jesus is** revealing HIMSELF **from heaven WITH His mighty angels,**

When Jesus was standing before Sanhedrin they had many false witnesses coming with accusations about Jesus and He doesn't respond to any of them. They finally ask Him a question that He does answer, *Are you the Son of God?*

Matthew 26:64

Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The response Jesus chose to use? Telling them that they would see Him sitting at the right hand of God, and He would be coming back again!

In the Acts chapter 1, 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus gives the promise of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and then ascends to heaven right before their eyes. They are all standing there, looking up and an angel shows up.

Acts 1:11

who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

There are over 300 references in the NT about the return of Christ.

The return of Christ was a vital teaching for this new church. Paul continues to remind them Jesus Christ is coming back.

Jesus gave us 2 Sacraments of the NT Church-Baptism & Communion

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Baptism is not the way to heaven. It is an act of obedience, a public declaration that the old person is dead and that a new person is now alive.

And that Jesus will be with us ALWAYS! Making disciples and baptism are things we are to do until He returns.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

Matthew 26:29

"But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Communion is not only a symbol of us partaking the sacrifice that Jesus made for us but communion brings us hope knowing that we will someday have communion WITH Him at His return!

There are 2 parts to the return of Christ:
Just as His coming has 2 aspects:

- He came as a sacrificial lamb to redeem us.
- He will come as a Lion to reign

John 14:3

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

As we looked at **1 Thessalonians 4** a few weeks ago we saw that the Rapture and the Day of the Lord were 2 different events.

The Rapture

1. Christ comes to the air-
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
2. Christ comes **FOR** His saints-
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
3. Is a mystery-
1 Corinthians 15:51
4. Identified as the Day of Christ
1 Corinthians 1:8
2 Corinthians 1:14
Philippians 1:6, 10
5. A time of blessing-
1 Thessalonians 4:18
6. No dating system-
1 Corinthians 15:52

The Revelation (Day of the Lord)

1. Christ comes to the earth-
Zechariah 14:3-4
2. Christ comes **WITH** His saints-
1 Thessalonians 3:13
Jude 14-15
3. Is NOT a mystery-
Isaiah 11
Zechariah 14
4. Identified as the Day of the Lord
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
5. A time of judgement-
2 Thessalonians 2:8-12
6. A detailed dating system-
Daniel 7:25, 12:7, 11-12
Revelation 11:2, 12:14, 13:5

Some considerations:

1. Daniel's prophecy of 70 weeks. **Daniel 9:25-27**
The events promised in the first 69 weeks are fulfilled, indicated that there is a lengthy "pause" between the 69th week and the 70th week.

God's focus between 69-70 is the church, His focus will return to Israel when the church is taken away (the rapture) and the last 7 years of man's rule on this earth begins.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

After the Rapture of the Church, the antichrist will be revealed and the 7 years of Tribulation begins. He will come on the scene and be the fix all to the world. But after 3½ years, he will set himself up in the Jewish temple and demand all worship him.

2. In the book of Revelation, the church is not mentioned between **Revelation 4** and **Revelation 19:10**. Here, the tribulation is described in detail.
3. During the Tribulation, God will pour out His judgement (wrath) upon the earth.

Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Revelation 3:10

"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

It is clear that those who follow Jesus will be saved from the wrath of God.

All of this pointing to what Paul is writing to the church in Thessalonica. God will take care of those persecuting the church. Let's continue...

2 Thessalonians 1:8

taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are 2 types of people that God will take vengeance on:

1. ***those who do not know God***
2. ***those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ***

those who do not know God

Have you ever been asked that question about the lost tribe in the Amazon rain forest that have never been reached with the Gospel. How will they hear about the Gospel if no one ever gets to them?

Romans addresses this challenge in detail.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

I would encourage you to read both Romans 1-2. We will look at a few verses:

Romans 1:18-21

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The wrath of God is revealed against ALL ungodliness and unrighteousness.

People will try to find a loop hole in God's righteousness and godliness.

There isn't one. God has revealed Himself in His creation.

Man tries to put himself in a position of authority all the while God has shown us that He is in authority.

Paul tells us ***that they are without excuse.***

those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

These are people that have heard the Gospel and have chosen not to follow Christ.

These 2 categories of people are going to experience the wrath of God.

Romans 2:11-12

For there is no partiality with God.

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law.

We could take the attitude when we study this area of scripture and say:

Finally, you are going to get what you deserve.

But this day should bring us to grief.

Knowing that any of our friends and loved ones that haven't accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are going to spend eternity in a place of pain and suffering.

IF you didn't know, God doesn't want anyone to go to hell.

Ezekiel 18:30-32

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

God loves you! He allows you to make a choice with your life. Give your heart to Jesus and allow Him to give you the peace that surpasses all understanding. And live with Him forever in heaven!

Separation from God is something today that a lot of people strive for. They want God removed from government, schools and places of business. From their lives and their homes.

"For years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"
Anne Graham Lotz

It is not wrong for God to take vengeance; we understand this when we understand what the word means in the Greek language.

"The word rendered 'vengeance' has no associations of vindictiveness. It is a compound based on the same root as the word rendered 'righteous' in vs 5, 6, and it has the idea of a firm administration of unwavering justice." (Morris)

The idea is the application of full justice on the offender; nothing more and nothing less.

The 2 types of people that God will take vengeance on:

1. ***those who do not know God***
2. ***those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ***

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

We must not be moved from the idea that the punishment of the wicked is everlasting. As the blessings of heaven are eternal, the penalty of hell is also eternal.

Revelation 20:15

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe

For the persecuted saints, those who believe, they will have God glorified in them on that Day, and they will see and admire Jesus more than ever.

The church in Thessalonica had an amazing hope for how the Lord would deal with their time of trials and persecution and the ones who are persecuting them.

We too can look forward to the Lord making all things right for us on ***that Day***.

We have a hope that the Lord is and will make all things new!

Revelation 21:5

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

because our testimony among you was believed.

All because 3 guys came to Thessalonica to share Jesus. The people ***believed***.

Have you ever thought for a moment what your life might be like if you hadn't given your heart to Jesus?

All because you believed! Look at what the Lord has done!

You have made the best decision you will ever make in your life!

because our testimony among you

The Greek word for ***testimony*** here is **martyrion** (mar tur ee on) meaning a witness. You tell people what you have witnessed in your life. What God has done in your life.

The root word here is **martyr**.

a witness-in a legal sense

-an historical sense

one who is a spectator of anything

-in an ethical sense

those who after His example have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Therefore, we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is praying for the church.

Praying that they would be worthy of this calling.

The calling that:

- vs 3 Our faith grows and our love abounds to each other

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

- vs 4 We must have patience and faith, we will endure persecutions and tribulations.
- vs 5 Because you will be counted worthy as God will judge
- vs 6 God will take care of all the people that are causing you to suffer for Him. God's got your back
- vs 7 You will receive rest when Christ is revealed

Ephesians 4:1-3

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

It is God's good pleasure to fulfill in you to be worthy of His calling.
The work of faith and power.

that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's desire to be glorified in you and you in Him
That is so awesome!

God loves you, He wants to pour out His never-ending grace.

What encouragement this is not only to the church in Thessalonica but to us!
God has a plan! He will take care of you! He will be your shield and defense.
God's got your back!

If you find yourself being one of those 2 types of people that God will take vengeance on:
You do not know God or you have heard the gospel before and didn't believe.

I would like to invite you to pray and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior.

God loves you and He sent Jesus to live on this earth a sinless life, to die on the cross to pay for our sins and He rose again so that we could have a relationship with Him.
And spend eternity with God.

Pray

For you that have given your heart to Jesus.

The prayer for you today! No matter what you are going thru, whether it's the trials of life? Persecution? Family drama? Work drama?
Know that God love you so much!
Our prayer for you today...

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-12

God's Got Your Back

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason, we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.