



Judgement Is Coming: 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Pastor JD Farag

Let's get started. 2 Thessalonians chapter 1, our text will be verses 6-10. We left off last week in verse 5 So, we'll pick it up in verse 6. I'll ask you to stand, if you're able. You can follow along as I read. If not where you're seated is fine.

The Apostle Paul is writing and by the Holy Spirit says, verse 6, "God is just. He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled and to us as well. Oh, really? I can't wait. When is this going to happen? Oh, he tells us. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

They [verse 9] will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people. and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you because you believed our testimony to you." Wow.

Let's pray. If you would join with me? We'll ask God's blessing on our understanding. Loving heavenly Father, we're so thankful to you, for your Word and this portion that we have before us today. But, Lord, we're also keenly aware that at this time we need for the Holy Spirit to bless this to our understanding, the application of it to our lives. So, Lord, will you speak into our lives in and through your word by the Holy Spirit? Your servants are listening. Lord, get our attention and keep our attention as you do. We pray. In Jesus name. Amen and amen. You could be seated. Thank you.

The title that I chose for today's sermon is: Judgement Is Coming. Sounds like a fire and brimstone sermon, doesn't it? Well, it's not. The reason it's not is because this is something that we, as Christians, should be very encouraged by. That's what I want to talk with you about today is: Why it is that we, as believers, should be encouraged by and look forward to the coming judgment of God? Judgement is coming. It has to. The Lord is coming. He has to.

What I want to do in our time together today is share with you from our text 2 reasons as to why it is that knowing that judgment is coming should be such a source of encouragement to us as Christians in these the last days in which we're living.

The 1st one is in verses 6 and 7 and it's that God is just. Now, this presents a difficulty of sorts for some because it's hard to reconcile a God who is love with a God who is just. Perhaps you've had this conversation with someone that you've shared the gospel with. It usually comes in the form of, well, if God is so loving, then why... And then you can fill in the blank. And you know what's coming. I

In all fairness, that's not necessarily an easy question to provide an answer for. I want to share with you that which has helped me when I've come across questions like that. I realize I run the risk of offering an oversimplification as I do. But this is easily resolved.

It's easily resolved when you see that if God did nothing concerning evil? Then he would not be a God of love. I'll explain it this way by way of an illustration. Let's say you're in court and you're seeing this trial. You have on the witness stand someone who is testifying to the crime. The horrific crime perpetrated by the alleged that perpetrated the crime. And you have



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a judge now that is sitting as judge. He then looks at this criminal who has committed this unthinkable crime and he doesn't do anything about it.

That is an unjust judge. What about the victim that was victimized by this perpetrator who carried out this crime? That judge is unjust, and as such, that judge is unloving. If this was truly a just judge and a loving judge, this just judge would meet out righteous judgment.

Here's another question that is often asked, "If God is so loving? Why does he allow evil and suffering to continue in this world?" Well, you have to understand that this was not God's original plan. I remember as a young believer being asked this question by a non-believer. They said, "So why, when Lucifer in heaven, sought to exalt himself above God and his throne above the most high. Why, when God cast him down to the earth, why did God do that? Why didn't he just "fry him" and start all over?"

Well, think about this. If he had done that? All of the heavenly host would have served him out of fear, not love. They would have had no choice. So, God, in his love as a just God, wanted to give mankind a choice. That's why he put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden. Of all the trees, Adam and Eve could eat and partake. But of this one tree, they were forbidden. Why did God do that? Because God's given them a choice. This is a just God who is a God of love and so sin has to run its course, if you will.

Now, the choice is ours as to what we're going to do with sovereignty that God has given us in our own free will. I like how one commentator explained it. He said, "A world in which justice was not done, at last, would not be God's world, at all. Do you see how you can easily reconcile the two? God is just; God is love. It's not that God has loved; No, God is love. But in order for God to be love, God must be just. Because if God is not just? God is not love."

So, why does this encourage us? Because there is coming a day as Paul says. Because God is just. Because he loves us so much and here, we are in this evil and wicked fallen world being victimized, if you will by the evil in this world. There is coming a day. Be encouraged. Hang on. Just wait. Because God is going to settle the score. God is going to have the final word.

I know I've shared this before. I hope you don't mind if I share it again. I hope you don't tire of me sharing this. But this is the thing that keeps me sane, literally. That's not hyperbole and I'll explain why I say that. As I see what's happening in the world today, I would go out of my mind were not for this truth here in God's word that God is going to have the final word.

I know I've shared with you and confess to you that I yell at my TV a lot. I'm getting better, God's helping me with this. But sometimes I'm watching the news coverage and I'm listening to this person talk and I think to myself, are you kidding me? Did you really just say that? And here's the Holy Spirit, so gentle, so patient. He has to be so patient with me. Just saying to me in that still small voice, no, no... God's going to take care of that. When? Soon. Not soon enough. Seems like they're getting away with it. Lord, how could you let them get away with that? It's so evil. I know.



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Don't ever imagine God is in heaven going, I can't believe they said that. No. It's like we inform the Lord when we pray. They're called "informational prayers". You know what I'm talking about, right? It's like God doesn't know so, we have to inform him. Lord, do you know what happened on Tuesday? Wait a minute, God is omniscient. He's all knowing; He's all present. He's all powerful. What? You're going to enlighten him? Like God's up there going, I didn't know that. Well, Lord, what are you going to do about it? No, I know what's happening. I actually told you this was going to happen. Just... wait. I'm going to take care of it. Yeah but, Lord, it seems like they're getting away with it. Not for long. Not for long. Because I am a just God.

Here's the 2nd reason the coming judgment should be a source of encouragement for us. In verses 8-10 and I realize this is going to sound like a firm grasp of the obvious. But heaven is forever. No, think about it. Heaven is forever and ever. It's for all eternity. Now, the reason I say it that way is because if heaven is forever? That means that earth is not. I know that's deeply profound, right?

But no, think about it. That means that all the pain and the suffering will come to an end, when Jesus comes and is glorified in his holy people. This is not going to last forever. Heaven is going to last forever.

The Apostle Paul says it like this, "The sufferings, the trials, the difficulty of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that awaits." Peter talks about the momentary light trials. Those difficulties in our lives that... Momentary? Light? This is pretty heavy. I wouldn't call it light and it's going on for a very long time. I would certainly not call it momentary.

But what he's saying is, is that in light of eternity, we go through this life as long and as difficult as it might be. It will not compare to the first ten jillion years in eternity. I know jillion is not a number. Don't email me. Especially for those of you who are mathematicians. I think you get the point.

By the way, there's no measurement of time in eternity because it's not time, it's eternity. But the point is, is that we might live 70, 75, 80, 85 years here on this earth? Not even to be compared with eternity because do you know how long eternity lasts? Again, I know deeply, profound: Forever and ever and ever.

In other words, this will come to an end and in the end, God will have the final word. This is why it should be such a source of encouragement to us. Because the problem for us is that we get discouraged. Even give way to despair in the suffering of this life, as we wait for the Lord to return. And that's why the Lord must return. The Lord has to come. And until the Lord comes and judges those who are wicked with an everlasting destruction...

Oh, by the way, parenthetically, let me say, "Hell is also forever." Oh, Pastor, I heard about this book that was written by this guy, well known author, that disputes that hell is not eternal. It's a false teaching known as "annihilationism", which is basically the belief that hell does not last for all eternity. Well, here's the problem with that and there are many problems with that. But if heaven is not forever, then hell is not forever. And if hell is not forever, then heaven is



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not forever. You can't have it... I mean, it has to be both. If hell is not forever? That means heaven is not forever. That's not what the Bible teaches. It's everlasting. Hell is forever.

I know that sends shivers up and down some people's spines but it's the truth. The whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God. Jesus came and died on the cross so that no one would perish. It's not God's will that any should perish. By the way, God never sends anybody to hell. God did not create hell for man. It is God's will that all should come to repentance. Hell was created for Satan and the fallen angels. The demons, not for man.

I really like the way I heard one say it, "If anybody goes to hell, they do so over Jesus' dead and resurrected body." You know that expression we use, "Over my dead body?" It's like Jesus is saying, "If anybody goes to hell for all eternity, it's over my dead and resurrected body. I came and I died so that you would not perish in hell for all eternity.

Paul is making it very clear here I believe that: Heaven is forever as is hell too, also, forever. Now, again, the problem that we have is what are we going to do until? Keyword, "until". I mean, it seems like, especially in these last days, that evil goes unchecked and the world is waxing more and more evil with each passing day. And it's very grievous. We have this saying, secular saying, "Ignorance is bliss".

On Thursday nights and our trek through the Bible, when we're done with the Book of Proverbs? We are going to go into the Book of Ecclesiastes. There's a verse in the Book of Ecclesiastes that says this, "With much knowledge comes much sorrow". The point of that is, is that because we know what comes packaged with that knowledge of what's coming? It brings with it, grief for us as Christians. Certainly, we are living in very grievous times, and it's really hard. Sometimes it's really hard to see evil go unchecked and wax worse, seemingly with each passing day.

I want to draw your attention to Psalm 73. This is a Psalm of Asaph. When we were going through the Book of Psalms, this was one Psalm in particular that we spent some time on because this was a guy that basically, had a crisis of faith. He almost lost his faith. Do you know why he almost lost his faith? It's because he saw the prosperity of the wicked and it was like God wasn't doing anything about it. Here he is living his life, righteously, walking uprightly, in integrity and purity. And he's watching the evil and the wicked prosper and go unchecked. It messed him up, really bad.

In fact, in the Psalm, he even says, "I stayed away from my brethren because I didn't want to stumble them and mess them up either by sharing with them my struggle." It's like, I'm walking uprightly and righteously in vain. Because I'm looking at the wicked and it's, kind of like, they have no problems and my life is riddled with problems.

Listen to what he says. He starts off, verse 1, "Truly, God is good to Israel to such as are pure in heart but as for me, my feet had almost stumbled. My steps had nearly slipped." And here's why, verse 3, "For I was envious of the boastful when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." Then, verse 16, he says, "When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me".



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Then verse 17, keyword, "until". Listen, "I went into the sanctuary of God then I understood their end. Surely you set them in slippery places. You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation as in a moment. They are utterly consumed with terrors as a dream when one awakes. So, Lord, when you awake, you shall despise their image." In other words? "It wasn't until I went into the sanctuary of the Lord..." which, by the way, is the best place to go, especially if you're struggling.

I realized, wait a minute. That's how it ends for them? I'm going from being envious of them, to feeling sorry for them because this is how it ends for them. Total paradigm shift. Completely changed my perspective because see, as a Christian, I know how it ends for me. And how it ends for me? Well, this is as bad as it gets. For them? This is as good as it gets and that kind of takes the edge off.

As it's been said for the non-Christians, "This is the most heaven they will ever know". Let that sink in, by the way. Let that "light a fire" of urgency to reach the lost while there's still time. This is the most heaven they will ever know. This is as good as it gets.

But not for the Christian. It's the opposite for the Christian. This is as bad as it's ever going to get. This is the most hell we will ever know, right here and right now. Until that time, which I truly believe and I know you also believe because we talk about it every week. Until that day, which is soon and very soon. Sooner than any of us, I truly believe, can even imagine.

When that trumpet is going to sound and the dead in Christ are going to rise first and we who are alive and remain will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. I love it that the Apostle Paul says to the Thessalonians. We saw this in chapter 4 in 1 Thessalonians. "Therefore, encourage one another with these words." This Thessalonian church, at that time was suffering under the crushing weight of persecution. They were so downcast; They were so discouraged.

So, Paul, a year after he writes the first letter, writes this 2nd letter. Why? To encourage them. They're so discouraged. They're so discouraged. He's saying, be encouraged because judgment is coming. Because God is just and heaven is forever. This is not forever. This is only but for a moment. James says, "Our lives down here are just a vapor."

As I get older, I'm celebrating another birthday this year. It happens every year, right? So, you know you're getting old when you forget how old you are and that happens now, quite often. So, I have to go back, do the math and figure out. Oh, wow. It doesn't help when your children remind you, how old you are. And then it's not so much that they say it. It's how they say it. It's not, you're getting older. It's, you're getting *really* old. ... Out of the mouths of babes. Kids say the darndest things, right?

But as I get older, one of the things that I'm realizing is I've got way more years behind me than I do in front of me should the Lord tarry. I'm thinking about this because I was just reminded that this year in June is my 40th year class reunion. I don't want to go to it. I don't want to go to my 40th, 40 years! Anyway, enough of my problems.



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But this is only temporary. It's only temporary. It's not going to last. God is just. Heaven is going to last for all eternity. Be encouraged. God's judgment is coming. He's going to have the final word. He's going to settle the score and then - that's it.

Let's pray. Thank you, Lord. Lord, thank you for this word here in your word. A word fitly spoken I believe I know for me personally. It's been a tremendous blessing to me, preparing it and now teaching it. Because it's the truth and the truth is what sets us free. It's so freeing, Lord, so encouraging.

Lord, thank you that judgment is coming. Thank you that you are just and that it's not much longer. And it is only temporary in light of eternity.

Lord, come quickly. In Jesus name. Amen.