

2nd Thessalonians

1:6-12 Part 2

Encouragement to Persevere

Last week we left off focusing on two verses - 2 Th.1:4-5 :

⁴ so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience(perseverance) and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, ⁵ 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; (Emphasis mine)

Our Application Homework was to:

Study about the 'patience'(perseverance) referred to in 2 Th.1:4 from the below cross-referenced passages?

(1 Th.1:3; 3:2-8.; 2 Th.3:5.; Ro.2:7; 5:3-5; 8:25; 12:12, 14-21; He.6:15; 10:36; 12:1-3.; Ja.1:3, 4; 5:7, 8.; 2 Pe.1:6.; Re.14:12.)

Can someone share their thoughts on this exercise?

Any further thoughts or comments?

Dr. Thomas L. Constable had this to say about the Thessalonians:

"2 Thessalonians," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 715.

"Because of such good growth the apostles frequently spoke with justifiable pride to other churches about the Thessalonians, using the Thessalonian church as a model to be emulated.

In particular, their perseverance (hypomonēs; cf. 1 Thes. 1:3; 2 Thes. 3:5) in the midst of persecutions was outstanding. The Thessalonians did not react to discomfort the way many Christians do, by running away from their uncomfortable situations.

Instead they viewed their circumstances as God's will and determined to brace up under the pressure. Their attitude was not to endure by force of their own strength, however. They had faith in God; they looked to Him for grace sufficient to bear up and accepted their circumstances as conditions which He was allowing for His glory."

(Emphasis mine)

Dr. Constable continued,

"2 Thessalonians," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 715.

"They were patiently enduring ... persecutions (diōgmois) from enemies of the gospel who were hostile toward them (cf. 1 Thes. 3:3-4).

The trials (thlipsesin, "pressures, troubles"; cf. 2 Thes. 1:6-7) they were undergoing were painful circumstances that came from both Jewish and Gentile acquaintances (cf. 1 Thes. 1:6; 2:14; Acts 17:5-9).

Their persecutions and trials were numerous. Yet, in spite of them all, the Thessalonians kept on standing strong and stable in their faith."

(Emphasis mine)

Today we will endeavor to unpack - verses 2 Th.1:6 - 12 that refer back to v.5⁵ 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;
(Emphasis mine)

Let's continue with one more quote from Dr. Constable:

"When God would judge the Thessalonians they would be declared worthy of God's kingdom. Endurance in trials does not make one worthy of heaven; one does not earn heaven by suffering. But endurance in trials does demonstrate one's worthiness.

A Christian is made worthy by God's grace, which he receives as a free gift by faith in Jesus Christ. His trials simply expose what is there already and since the character that emerges through the fire of testing is God-given, God receives all the glory."

Thomas L. Constable, "2 Thessalonians," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 715.

Rich Brito COD March 2024 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 6-12 Part 2

Let's read our passage today: 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12 (ESV)

⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,

¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Th.1:6

since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

What else do we know about God's justice that Paul affirmed in v.6?

Here are two passages that come to mind concerning justice, God's way:

Rom.12:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

Gal.6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

We found yet another nugget of wisdom from Dr. Constable!

"2 Thessalonians," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 715.

Re: Justice

^{2Th.1:6} "Paul explained how the Thessalonians' suffering demonstrated the justice of God. He first stated the great truth taught from Genesis through Revelation: God is just. God will balance the scales of justice. He will mete out trouble (*thlipsin*; cf. v. 4) to those who troubled (*thlibousin*) the Thessalonians (cf. Gal. 6:7)."

Thoughts or comments?

2 Th.1:7

and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us,
when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

Some thoughts and questions that come to mind in this passage:

What does relief look like?

Revelation 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 11:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Revelation 14:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

2 Th.1:7

and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us,
when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

When will Jesus be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels?

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Jude 1:14-15(NKJV)

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

See also: Lk.17:23-24; Matt.24:29-31; Jn.14:1-3 (re: Grooms obligations to bride)

Lord Jesus is revealed

Luke 17:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them.

²⁴ For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

When?

John 14:1-3(NKJV)

¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

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."

It is interesting to note that in ancient Hebrew culture, it was the custom for the bridegroom to make provisions to care for and house the bride. That act usually included preparing a room in the bridegroom's Father's home. And when all the arrangements were completed, only then, was the Bride called w/trumpet & a shout!

Now, we know why it is called the Wedding Feast of the Lamb and even who is invited!
(Jn.14:1-3; Mat. 22:1-14; Rev.19:6-9)

Then, when all the preparations were completed and the invitations sent & accepted, God the Father will tell His son, Jesus, when to call for his bride! (1 Th.4:16-18)

Questions/Comments?

For more background: <https://www.gotquestions.org/marriage-customs.html>

2 Th.1:8

in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Paul is referring to two groups: (hint 1 Th.2:14)

One group could be unbelieving gentiles: i.e. Ro.1:18-21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

²⁰ 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,

²¹ 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.

(continued) 2 Th.1:8

in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

And could the 2nd group be disobedient/unbelieving Jews?

i.e. John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Acts 17:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Doesn't 'not persuaded' = disobedient/unbelief?

2 Th.1:9

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

Could this be a picture of what real & total death looks like?

Consider these passages as well:

Daniel 12:2 (NKJV)

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Matthew 25:41,46 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Note: I do not think 'everlasting punishment' is the same as annihilation !

Mark 9:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

2 Th.1:10

when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints,
and to be marveled at among all who have believed,
because our testimony to you was believed.

"that day" refers to Jesus' 2nd coming: (See also Epilogue re: 'Day of the Lord')

For further study of 'that day' consider these passages:

Rev. 19:11-20:4 (end of Tribulation & beginning of Millenium)

Rev. 20:7-10,11-15 (end of Millenium , final judgement, & begin of Eternal State)

What do you think 'to be marveled at among all who have believed' means?

"glorified in" (not glorified by)

Some scholars have said that
Christ would be reflected in believers
in such a way that all believers would 'marvel'
at what Christ had done in and for them!

2 Th.1:10

when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints,
and to be marveled at among all who have believed,
because our testimony to you was believed.

What does 'glorified in his saints' mean?

Consider these passages as well:

Isaiah 49:3 (NKJV)

³ "And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.'

John 17:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Matthew 25:31 (NKJV)

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. . . "

Questions or Comments?

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,
¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him,
according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice that Paul re-emphasized his points of encouragement and exhortation through his conviction of 'praying without ceasing' for his beloved Thessalonians before he began addressing their next concerns.

It is encouraging to note Paul's similar exhortations to others:

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Application Exercise

2 Th.1:8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on

(Group 1) [those who do not know God] and on [those who do not obey the gospel] (Group 2) of our Lord Jesus. 9They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

Review what 2 Th.1:8-9 and these passages below have to say about these 2 groups:

Group 1: Ro. 1:18-32; 2:2

Group 2: Jer.13:25; Acts 13:50; 17:5; Ro.2:8; Eph.5:6; Col.3:6; (extra credit: Mat. 11:20-24)

1. To what degree are the people in those groups judged?
2. Do you know people who are like those in those groups?

But it does not have to be that way! (Ro.5:8; 1 Pet.3:15; 2 Pet.3:9)

Consider the marvelous magnificent Grace of God and what can happen when someone just like you shares the Hope you have in Christ with someone just like those in either group above!

Perhaps this is how you can begin to share your story: (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph.2:1-9)

Application Meditation

Reflecting on the 'patience' (perseverance) of the Thessalonians

VICTORY

When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly, glorying in the insult or the oversight, because thereby counted worthy to suffer with Christ - that is victory.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your taste offended, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient, loving silence - that is victory.

When you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God - that is victory.

(Author Unknown)

1 Pe 2:19-20

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God

Epilogue 1

What is the Day of the Lord?

- Let us consider that the 'Day of the Lord' is a period of time where God executes His judgments on mankind/earth and those judgments have two primary aspects:
- 'Judgments on the earth' & 'temporal judgments' as from Moody Bible below:
- *"The "day of the Lord" is frequently a reference to God's eschatological judgment of the earth, when the nations will be judged and Israel fully restored (cf. Is 13:6-16, 9; 34:8; Jl 1:15; 2:1, 11; 3:14; Am 5:18, 20; Ob 15; Zph 1:7, 14; Zch 14:1; Mal 4:1-6; 1Th 5:2; 2Th 2:2; 2Pt 3:10). (I add Rev. 20:11 - 21:8 as the final judgment)*
- *However, it can also refer to God's temporal judgments (cf. Lm 2:21-22), even as Judah and Israel had experienced God's temporal judgment when punished for their sins (cf. Ezk 7:1-14)."*

– Michael A. Rydelnik and James Spencer, ["Isaiah," in *The Moody Bible Commentary*, ed. Michael A. Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham \(Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014\), 1014.](#)