DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOPE FOR THE CHURCH: LETTERS TO THE CHURCH IN THESSALONICA



JULY 24, 2022

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SERMON NOTES

SUFFERING AND JUDGMENT II THESSALONIANS 1:4-12

"In the divine plan, the suffering of God's people plays a central role and should not be construed as a sign of God's rejection or neglect of his own." Gene Green

"The New Testament does not look on suffering in quite the same was as most modern people." Leon Morris I & II Thessalonians p 197

SUFFERING AND THE CHRISTIAN

II Thess. 1:4-5

I Thess. 2:2

Romans 8:1

I Peter 4:12-14

Here I am, Lord, send me; send me tot he ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage pagans of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort on earth; send me even to death itself, if it be but in thy service, and to promote thy kingdom. David Brainerd

JUDGEMENT FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL

II Thess. 1:6-10 Hebrews 10:29-31

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE THESSALONIANS

II Thess. 1:11-12

- God makes you worthy of his calling
- God fulfills by his power your every desire for goodness and every work of faith
- The name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him.

"If our life is Christ, our future will be gain: otherwise not." William Hendricksen.. Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus p. 162

TEXT SUMMARY		
In our text, II Thessalonians 1:4-12, Paul speaks of the suffering and persecution experienced by the Thessalonian believers.		
How would you define persecution from a Christian perspective?		
Why is it we see so little persecution in our own country whereas persecution is very prevalent in other countries?		
Have we misidentified persecution by the absence of Gospel-centered persecution?		
INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION)		
1.	Paul speaks of a righteous judgment directed toward believers. One perspective is shared in the sermon. Are there others perspectives worthy of consideration? If so, what are they and how are they different form that which was shared in the sermon?2	
2	The judgment of God against unbelievers is the other major point in the text. This is not a popular view in our culture. How do we graciously communicate this? How would you engage a person who does not believe in a God of judgment?	
DIS	CUSSION (INTERPRETATION):	
1.	What is the impact of a just judgment for believers in our lives?	
2.	How would you engage a person who does not believe in a God of judgment?	

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION): 1. How do we embrace a life of suffering, according to the context, if we are not experiencing persecution? 2. Is there something missing in our spiritual lives if we are not being persecuted? 3. How do we deal with the eternal judgment of God in the lives of those we love?