



Message Series Guide

Living Hope

Part 8 – Judgement of Christ’s Coming

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Just like a serious infection sometimes needs a second round of antibiotics, the young church at Thessalonica needed a second round of Paul’s wisdom and direction. The first round (1 Thessalonians) was effective, but a second round was needed to ensure full understanding. 2 Thessalonians is a very personal, gentle letter written to the believers in Thessalonica who were suffering for their faith. Paul urged their continued perseverance, good behavior, love, and faith. He reminded them of Christ’s coming, at which time the unbeliever would receive punishment, while the believer would obtain honor, glory, and the eternal presence of Christ Jesus.

READ:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-12 • Romans 1:7 • Philippians 1:28 • Revelation 6:10 • Matthew 25:31

- Why did Paul feel the need to write to the Thessalonians again? What does this reveal about Paul and his concern for the Thessalonian church?
- What is the significance of Paul’s mention of grace and peace in the situation the Thessalonians were in? How does this apply to you as you live out your faith?
- In your opinion, what are the distinguishing characteristics of genuine conversion?
- What are some of the reasons Paul was so willing to boast about the Thessalonian church? How might someone boast about your church?
- What does Jesus’ return mean for the wicked? What about for the saints?
- What did Paul mean when he says that Christ is going to bring “rest” for His people? What impact should that promise have on us today?
- How is God just in the way that He deals both with sinners and with His saints?
- Describe how Paul details the finality of judgement for those who do not love God. What should your response be to this description?
- How is God’s vengeance different from our vengeance?

DISCUSS:

- What are some ways that today’s Christian church is experiencing adversity and persecution? How does this passage challenge the way you view the presence of pain or suffering in your life?
- Describe the various ways that your hope enables you to face both your challenges and your opportunities? How does God use our present suffering to prepare us for future glory?
- What prompted Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians? What is the nature of his prayer? How can you use his prayer as a model for the way you pray for your fellow believers?
- How would you counsel a young believer who thinks that his/her trials must mean that God doesn’t love him/her? What Scriptures would you use?

PRAY:

Pray that you will live a joyful, expectant, and faithful life even in the midst of suffering and pain.

RESPOND:

Read Proverbs 1:20-33 and consider why it is crucial to trust God and not grumble in our suffering and pain.