

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

The Horrors of Hell or Hope in Christ

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2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 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.

- there has been great debate over the issue of _____ in the church for a long time now

- but one thing is sure the more you accommodate on _____ truth the farther that road leads away from Jesus

- hear this testimony of a Minister in Canada and their journey to becoming an atheist

Vosper has been honest enough to say that she no longer believes in a distant and capricious God who inseminated a Jewish virgin and makes human sacrifices to appease the powers of evil.

Neither do I. Which, I suppose, makes me an atheist too.

Once, I believed all of those things. Or at least, I accepted them. If everyone else believed them, why shouldn't I? Not that it made much difference to my behaviour. Then life intervened. Learning intruded. I encountered other cultures.

I no longer believe that those who fail to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour will go to hell, because I no longer believe in hell. I'm willing to wait and see about heaven.

But that doesn't mean I don't experience God. I am far more aware of God now than when I held traditional beliefs. God flows through all relationships, all experiences, all

life the way water permeates a sponge.

- here we see the dangers of leaving the truths of the Lord one doctrine at a time
- and what do you have at the end of it all? Absolutely nothing!

- you are left with I don't believe in God but I experience God – how is that possible?

- here in this _____ (2Thessalonians 1:5-10) we see some very _____ and confrontational words with regards to the eternal destiny of those who reject the Lord and His _____

- we need to make this crystal clear, Paul is not just making an empty threat about God's _____

- when we read the Old Testament we see several people that _____ the reality and glory of the Lord and we see the outcome did not work out well for them
- just think of Nebuchadnezzar he gloried in his pomp, the Lord _____ him (Daniel 4)

- let us be serious about the _____ of the Lord today and let us take His Word seriously

- as way of introduction there are really _____ major views on hell, or the punishment of God that are taught in the church

1) There Is No _____

- we see this from the testimony above where a minister in Canada who preaches every week, rejects not only the work of Christ but also hell which is God's punishment for sin

2) Annihilationism

- this view has become generally tolerated in many Canadian Churches
- this is the view that teaches that if you reject Christ, at the 2nd coming of Jesus or at your death you just cease to _____
- this view teaches that there is not eternal destruction or eternal punishment, there is just eternal nothingness

3) The Biblical View

- hell, as described in the Bible, is an eternal conscious torment _____ from the presence of the Lord

- now I am well aware that the Biblical view of hell for those who reject Jesus could seem offensive, but the Word of God is true and sure

- as we have talked about already in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 1 is a section on encouragement in the midst of _____
- and you might be thinking that some of these verses, particularly about Hell, do not seem all that encouraging
- but Paul has included this section (:5-10) to _____ these believers in the midst of the trials they were facing

- in 1:3, Paul _____ this section out with thanksgiving to God for God's work among them
- in 1:4, Paul _____ about how they were steadfast in their faith in the midst of persecution

- and now Paul encourages them because God is _____ in their midst, and reminds them of the final punishment of the _____ doers who have afflicted them

- 1) (1:5-7) Affliction to those who Afflict**
- 2) (1:8-9) Absolute Sobering Truth**
- 3) (1:10) A Great Day**

1) (1:5-7) Affliction To Those Who Afflict

(1:5) This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering--

- this verse is somewhat difficult because it is not _____ as to what "this evidence" is
- you might be wondering how does the righteous judgment of God connect to how the Thessalonians are doing?
- when we hear the word _____ we often think of punishment, but the word judgment does not always have a punishment element
- judgment can mean that God has vindicated you, meaning that God has _____ you righteous and a child of God

- this "evidence" for God's grace and _____ in their lives as a church manifested in 3 ways
1) 2 Thessalonians 1:4 – they were steadfast in persecution
2) 2 Thessalonians 1:4 – they had _____ in the midst of their persecution
3) 2 Thessalonians 1:5 – because they were justified by _____ and made

right with God by faith, their faith was vindicated by means of them being considered _____ of the kingdom for their suffering

- we know that persecution of these Thessalonians started right from the conception of this _____

Acts 17:4-7 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews were _____, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

- we see a lot persecution in the book of _____

- often persecution is initiated because i) people are jealous of _____ done by the apostle and ii) that many Jews respond to the gospel because they repent and believe upon Jesus Christ

- these healings and conversions initiate a _____ reaction of persecution against the church

- Paul also reminds these Christians that if they suffer they are considered "_____ of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering"

- this rationale given for _____ is also seen in the book of Acts

- after the apostles are arrested and released they _____ that they

could _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus

Acts 5:41-42 Then they left the presence of the council, _____ that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

- maybe you have been _____ because you are a follower of Jesus or as you tried to share your faith

- you ought to rejoice that you can share in suffering for the glory of Christ Jesus

(1:6) since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

- verse 6 is yet another encouragement for these Christians

- first we need to comment about the _____ of God

- God's judgment upon those who reject the Lord Jesus is just because God is

_____ - this means that judgment upon sinners is right and not as so many people in our culture view the judgment of God, mainly as _____ or unjust

- the book of Revelation speaks about the judgment of God being "_____ " numerous times

Revelation 16:7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and _____ are your judgments!"

Revelation 19:2 for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

- God's judgment is just because God is a _____ God

- the reason why God is right to punish _____ is because God is a perfect and Holy God who cannot look upon sin
- imagine with me for a second, that someone steals everything you own and kidnaps your family
- the person is caught and declared _____, but he walks away without any sentencing or punishment for their crimes
- Would you consider that a just ruling? NO!

- God is a _____ judge; our sins have _____ us from God and put us out of relationship with God and we deserve to _____ the punishment for our sin
- this is the very purpose of why we need Jesus Christ to _____ us from our sin

- but we do see encouragement here, those who afflict the Thessalonians will receive God's _____
- God will punish those who persecute this church
- although this church was facing terrible circumstances they can have joy in a _____ and just God who will repay their afflictors

(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

- furthermore, the Thessalonian Christians would be _____ by the promise that they will be relieved from this persecution
- I sometimes think that we have it too easy in North America and the church is very cozy doing church – while at the same time we

are _____ in sharing our faith and that is why we face such little opposition
- is it possible that the reason so many of us have not faced opposition is because we have not been _____ in making Jesus Christ known?

- but as we saw in Acts 17, Paul was very _____ in sharing the Lord Jesus and as you read in the rest of the book of Acts this got him into a lot of trouble

- here in this verse we see yet another _____ of the hope of the resurrection
- so far in 1 Thessalonians we talked about the blessing of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as being
1) 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – _____ being with the Lord
2) 1 Thessalonians 5:10 – we will _____ with the Lord Jesus Christ

- we see yet another blessing of being _____ by grace; we will experience _____ from persecutors and of course relief from this sin cursed world

- how many of us have been beaten down and tired lately?
- the Lord will bring _____ not only from those who seek to persecute Christians and speak ill of Christians but as well relief from the results of _____ in a sin cursed world

- in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 we see more of what the coming of the Lord Jesus will look like
- Paul describes this as “Jesus being revealed”!

- this means that Jesus will be physically present as He _____ to the earth at His 2nd coming

Three Aspects Of How Jesus Will Come

i) Jesus will come from _____
- we know that Jesus died, God raised Him from the dead and then Jesus ascended into heaven
- where Jesus is now ruling over the earth, praying for us, interceding for us and preparing a place for us
- Jesus will come back again from heaven in the same way He went to heaven (Acts 1:11)

ii) Jesus will come with his mighty _____

- Jesus will not be alone but come with His angels
- Jude quotes the book of Enoch in his letter and says the same thing about the coming of Jesus

Jude 1:14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,

iii) Jesus will come in flaming _____ (2 Thessalonians 1:8)

- of course fire in the Old and New Testament refers to judgment
- the fire of the punishment of God

2) (1:8-9) Absolute Sobering Truth

- although this passage speaks encouragement to the Christian, this passage also speaks some serious words to those who _____ the gospel
- these next two verses are not a gimmick, a scam or a trick

- Paul is not trying to swindle them by means of a scare tactic

(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.

- do you see these strong words that Paul uses when describing the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus?

- "inflicting vengeance" this means Jesus will _____ punishment or bring retribution

- this verse does not give us the "warm fuzzies"

- many church goers do not feel comfortable speaking about the _____ of the Lord in these terms but Paul is very clear about the consequences for those who refuse Christ – they will receive _____ punishment

- Paul lays out who will receive this punishment: i) those who do not _____ God and ii) those who do not _____ the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

i) they do not know God – we can know God through the person and work of the Lord Jesus

- ___ you do not know Jesus you do not know God

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the _____, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- often the Gentiles who reject the Lord Jesus are described as those who do not _____ God

Romans 1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- this means that you have rejected Jesus and His Lordship over your _____, or you have rejected Jesus as your personal boss

ii) they do not _____ the gospel
- first we must explain the gospel!
- the gospel is good news from God and this good news flows from the person and work of the Lord Jesus
- this is the message of _____ that Jesus Christ has taken the punishment for our sin by His death upon the Cross
- God defeated death and its consequences when He miraculously raised _____ from the dead
- through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord gives to those who receive this grace through faith the ability to be children of God, we have the joy of being in the Lord and delivered from the _____ of sin

- those who do not obey the gospel are those who do _____ acknowledge that they have sinned against God
- they see no need to hear the demands of Jesus or offers of Jesus because they think that they do not _____ Jesus and His work
- so they do not believe or _____ or submit to the Lord Jesus Christ

(1:9) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

- here we get a description of what hell or _____ death looks like
- do you hear these difficult words?
Punishment of eternal destruction!

- this is no light sentencing for our sin, this is just straight up serious

- this is the opposite of eternal life, this is eternal death and eternal punishment for our sin
- we see no _____ in the future for those who have rejected the Lord Jesus and ventured into the after life
- some think that I might be just preaching that you need to have fire insurance, but this is more than that, this is eternal fire insurance

- Jesus speaks about this _____ punishment of those who reject him in the gospel of Matthew
Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal _____ prepared for the devil and his angels."
Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- but this eternal punishment is compounded because we are _____ from the presence of God and the glory of His might
- many people view hell as a dark place where death metal bands are playing and bikers are hanging out
- although that imagery is not pleasant, this judgment is described as a place _____ from the presence of the Lord and it will be very horrifying
- the glory of God that is seen on the earth will not be seen in hell or the afterlife for those who _____ Jesus and His gospel

3) (1:10) A Great Day

(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.

- Jesus will come on that day and that day of course refers to the _____ of the Lord and thus the 2nd coming of the Lord
- we will see the glory of Christ, we will be able to marvel at the Lord
- we will see the beauty of Christ and His majesty, and what a day of _____ that will be!

- and note the emphasis here at the end of this section, do you see the word "believe" is used 2 times?

- note the contrast: there are those who _____ and marvel (1:10) and those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel

- the contrast is obvious: for those who _____ Jesus, eternal punishment away from the presence of God awaits them and for those who believe in Jesus and His gospel there is _____ life in His presence enjoying His glory and His Joy forever!

Application

1) There Is A Glorious Hope For You Christian

- if you are a Christian and you have been paying attention to 1 and 2 Thessalonians you will see that there is a great _____ for you!

- of course one of the great verses that applies to this section is found in 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we

had among you, and how you turned to God from _____ to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Jesus delivers us from the _____ to come in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 and Paul speaks some serious judgment and some serious words concerning the fruits of our sin

- but thanks be to God and the Lord Jesus for their _____ to us!

- we justly deserve "affliction" for our sin, but God gives to us Grace through Jesus Christ

- we justly deserve _____ "flaming fire" for our sin, but God gives to us Grace through Jesus Christ

- we justly deserve "vengeance" for our sin, but God gives to us _____ through Jesus Christ

- we justly deserve "eternal punishment" but God gives to us Grace through Jesus Christ

- we justly deserve to be "away from the presence of the Lord" but God gives to us Grace through Jesus Christ

- we justly deserve to be away from "the _____ of His might" but God gives to us Grace through Jesus Christ

- our sins they are many

and our deserved punishment is severe, but thank be to God His grace is dear!

- today if you are in Christ, let this _____ your life as we go through difficult times

- a Dr. friend said that his clinic workers are getting stressed because many people who are coming in are treating the staff terribly

- they have had to ban people from getting medical treatment because they are acting inappropriately
- we are not immune to the stress and anxiety that surrounds us in these times
- let us fill our minds with the hope found in this passage, His _____ coming and his glorious return
- let us fill our _____ with this grace and hope that Jesus offers and has given to us!
- thank the Lord, praise the Lord and give all glory to the Lord for His gracious work for us!

2) There Is No Hope For Those Who _____ Jesus

- I know that some might be offended by this statement because we have been taught that everyone must be included and everyone must be treated good and equal
- we all deserve God’s punishment for our sin but God does not give us what we _____ , God gives us grace through Jesus and that is why Paul talks about the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
- the gospel of Christ is _____ news!
- today if you are outside Jesus please get serious about the Lord Jesus Christ
- please not only take the punishment you deserve for your sin seriously but take the _____ offered to you in Jesus Christ seriously
- turn from your sin that has brought you much despair and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ

- Christians do you see the situation that your non- believing friends, family, co-workers and neighbours are in?
 - let us be a people who _____ out with compassion and who speak the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - hear what _____ says to this congregation in how they are to act to those who do not know Jesus
- Jude 1:22-23** And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

**Coming up
next week:
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**