

Study 13 – Book of Second Thessalonians

Topic: God's Final Judgement and Glory

Study text: 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12

Verse by Verse Study

Q: What will happen when Jesus is revealed from heaven? Vs 6? What event does this refer to?

Q: What is the punishment for those who don't accept/follow the gospel? Vs 8 & 9

1. God's righteous judgment – In these verses, there are two aspects of God's judgment. The first is punishment for those who have mistreated the Thessalonians (or other believers). Notice it is God who does the repaying.

Romans 12:19 – Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Paul wants the Thessalonians to know that God is just. He will deal justly with all of their persecutors. They need not concern themselves with making sure those people were paid back. Neither should they worry that evil people were getting away with their sins without any punishment. God saw all of what was going on. At the appropriate time, He would punish them.

The second is relief for the Thessalonians who had been mistreated. **See Hebrews 4:3-11** to read about the rest that believers who endure can enter into. The Thessalonians would not face this persecution forever. At the appropriate time, God would give them relief. Setting their minds on this hope, they should continue to persevere while trusting that God had the best in store for them.

How does the knowledge that there is relief/rest coming, help you in the midst of affliction?

- **What doctrines about hell can you find in verse 9? How should the truth of verse 9 affect our lives today?**
- **What does it mean that He will be glorified "in his saints"?**

What prayers did Paul make for the people? Vs 11

How can you be worthy of your calling?

- **What is a work of faith? Are those terms "work" and "faith" a contradiction?**
- **How can Christ be glorified in you? Vs 12. In what you do? In your acts? In your ways?**

2. Eternal punishment – The next couple of verses describe in more detail this punishment. Jesus' second coming is not a "silent night" type like His first coming. Verse 7 shows that He will return with mighty angels and flaming fire. The purpose this return is to deal out retribution to those who have not embraced the gospel.

We studied a bit about this in 1 Thessalonians and found that the “day of the Lord” is truly a terrifying time for all who don’t know the Lord. Here we learn more information about what this punishment will entail:

A. Pay the penalty – It is a just punishment. The penalty is for sins which the person has committed. You don’t pay a penalty unless you have done something wrong.

B. Eternal destruction – This verse dispels the notion of a purgatory where you can stay awhile and work off your sins. It is an eternal destruction. Jesus said that there the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched, showing the eternal nature of this punishment. Eternity is a long time; it’s never-ending. It is a genuinely terrifying image.

C. Away from the presence of the Lord – Hell has been described as eternal death, meaning an eternal separation from God. None of God’s mercy, love, kindness, or grace will be felt there. It could be worse to have no parent than to have an angry parent. Hell is the finality of God abandoning all those who first abandoned Him. In 1 John, it says we love because He first loved us. But for unbelievers, it will be “He rejected them because they rejected Him.”

D. From the glory of His power – God’s power will not reach down into hell to save people. He has already demonstrated His power by reaching into this world and offering salvation. He is not going to repeat that offer for people in hell.

When I look at the above facts about hell, I almost feel sick to my stomach. It is terrible. There is no silver lining. There is no comfort.

Application: What can we do with this knowledge? How should knowing about the horrors of God’s final punishment for unbelievers affect our lives? **We must share the good news!**

3. Jesus will receive glory – On that day, Jesus will receive the ultimate glory. Believers will marvel at Him. He will be glorified in us.

4. Pray for you always – This is another reminder to make prayer a top priority.

5. Work of faith – Faith requires action. It is not just in our minds. Those who have faith in God must work for Him. A faith that is not shown in action is dead.

6. Christ glorified in you – Our foremost goal should be to bring glory to God. This, ultimately, is why we were created. Satan desires to twist God’s natural order by tempting us to seek glory and credit for ourselves, just like he did. When we do this, it is the result of our natural pride that rebels against God.

In what ways can you glorify God with your life? Is there any area where you are being a bad testimony for the Lord?

One good test when facing a decision or temptation is to ask ourselves, “Will this bring God glory?” If the answer is no, don’t do it. Set a habit of routinely asking yourselves this question and live every day in light of the responsibility we have to glorify God in everything we do.

1 Corinthians 10:31 – So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.