

II Thessalonians: Lesson #52: The Lord's Righteous Judgment

Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children

For Wednesday, Nov. 12th

Read II Thess. 1:1-12 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: II Thess. 1:11a "Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling..."

Paul Writes a Second Letter to the Thessalonians

- When Paul and Timothy came through their town, many people were saved and became Christians, but others who did not love Jesus persecuted Paul for preaching. They chased Paul out of town. Because of that, Paul and Timothy had to leave Thessalonica quicker than they wanted to.
- Paul went on to Berea and then to Athens, but he was so worried about the Thessalonians, he sent Timothy back to see if they were still being faithful Christians.
- Paul went from Athens to Corinth and waited there to hear from Timothy. When Timothy came he brought the news that the Thessalonian Christians were still serving God faithfully.
- Timothy also brought back news of a few things that they wanted Paul to explain to them. Paul wrote I Thessalonians to answer those questions, but when it was delivered, they still had a few more questions. Paul writes II Thessalonians to clear up a few more things they wanted to know about.

Paul is Still Thankful for the Thessalonians

- Paul had said in I Thessalonians that he wanted their faith and love to keep growing. He was so excited to learn that they really were growing.
- Here in II Thessalonians Paul explains how thankful they were to God for the Thessalonian church.
- We should all want faith and love to grow in the church here. We should always pray that these will grow and be thankful to God when we see it.
- But Paul was especially thankful that the Thessalonian Christians were growing, because they had been badly persecuted. Sometimes people who don't love Jesus will try to make it hard on us for following Him. Think about some of the mean things that were done to Christians back then:
 - ◆ They would beat Christians up.
 - ◆ They would put some of them in prison.
 - ◆ Some people wouldn't have anything to do with you.
 - ◆ They would lie and tell things that weren't true about you. They would make fun of you.
 - ◆ Some might not let you have a job or if you had a business, people wouldn't buy anything from you. Then it would be hard to earn enough money to pay for food and a place to live.
 - ◆ Some Christians had their property taken away from them.

- ◆ Some Christians had family members who weren't Christians and these non-Christians would no longer consider them part of their family.
- ◆ Some Christians were put to death.
- ◆ Would you still come to church and follow Jesus if people did those things to you?

The Lord is Coming to Judge

- God would be paying back those who had been causing problems for these Christians. It is not good for Christians to pay people back for causing them troubles. That's not our job. It's God's job. We don't take revenge on people.
- But people who do wrong will be punished by God in the Day of Judgment.
- Paul pictures Jesus and the angels coming back in flaming fire ready to punish those who have done wrong. Especially those who don't really know God, and those who have not obeyed the Gospel. This will happen at the end of time.
- They will be sentenced to "everlasting destruction." The word "destruction" means that something is ruined, like a toy that is broken and can't be fixed or fruit that has started to rot. It exists, but it will never be good again.
- This also says that those who have disobeyed Christ will for all eternity be separated from God's presence and His power. All the wonderful things that will be in heaven, these people will never get to be part of. Instead they will spend endless years ruined in hell.
- But it will be a special day for Christians when we are allowed to see Jesus in all His heavenly glory and to know we will be taken to our heavenly home to be with the Lord forever.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

1:1 Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 It is our duty to thank God all the time because of you, brethren. It is very appropriate for us to do that because your faith keeps growing greater and greater, and the love each of you has for one another just keeps increasing.

4 We boast about you in all the churches of God because your faith and steadfastness has held up through all your persecutions and pressures.

5 This is evidence of God's righteous judgment for you to be counted worthy of God's kingdom which you suffer for.

6 If God repays those who are putting troublesome pressures on you by doing the same to them, then that is the righteousness of God.

7-8 You who are troubled will be given rest when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire giving out vengeance on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9-10 These will be judged and sentenced to everlasting destruction separated from the presence of the Lord and from His glorious power when Jesus comes in that day to be glorified in His saints and marveled at by all who believe (our testimony among you was believed).

11 And we always pray towards this end, that God will think you are worthy of this calling and will fulfill every good and right decision you make and will fill you with the ability to perform every work of faith.

12 And that He might do this so that the name of Jesus will be glorified in you, and so that you can be glorified in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.