

# 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

## October 30, 2022



### SCRIPTURE

<sup>6</sup> God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you <sup>7</sup> and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup> He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might <sup>10</sup> on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

### COMMENTARY

**1:6-7.** God will reward His people with rest and repay those who oppose Him at the future revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven. Until then the believer must trust that God in His time will handle current situations that are unjust. Angels are often presented as participating in executing God's awesome judgments and thus are described as powerful (cp. Mt 25:31; Mk 8:38).

**1:8.** The phrase those who don't know God is a reference to unbelieving Gentiles (1Th 4:5). Those who don't obey the gospel is probably a reference to many Jews who had an opportunity to hear Jesus or the gospel through the ministry of the apostles but rejected it.

**1:9.** The penalty of eternal destruction is described as being away from the Lord's presence. The word "destruction" does not imply ceasing to exist or annihilation but separation from God in a miserable state. This is why it is described as eternal. There will be a time when God throw all His enemies into the lake of fire to be eternally judged (Rev 20:11-15).

**1:10.** The saints are the holy people of God. This term refers to all of those called in God's plan of salvation (1Co 1:2; 2Co 1:1). 1:11-12 In view of this probably refers to the whole preceding passage about the people's perseverance in persecution. Paul prays for their faithfulness in living Christian lives as a demonstration of their inclusion in God's grace.



## MAIN POINT

Jesus ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. From there, He will judge the living and the dead.

## INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*  
Introduction

**Have you ever received any benefits from knowing someone in a certain position within a company (free food because someone works at a restaurant, discounts on clothes, you've gotten out of a ticket because you know a police officer, or something similar)?**

**What are a few of the benefits you receive from knowing Jesus? How often do you think about these benefits?**

Sometimes it pays to know people. When you are going a little faster than you should, it works in your benefit to have a personal relationship with a police officer. When you're in high school, it works in your favor to know someone who works at a place where you can get free food. Yet better than any of these benefits are the ones we receive from knowing Christ. In an abstract sense, we understand these benefits and know they exist, but few of us ever really dwell on the benefits associated with knowing Jesus. Today we will look at the benefits we receive from knowing the ascended and reigning Jesus.

## UNDERSTANDING

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

- ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-9

**When Jesus returns, what will come with Him? What picture does this paint of Jesus for you? How does this help us see minor injustices in light of the eternal Judge?**

**What comfort can Christians take in the minor opposition they face this side of heaven?**

**Read Revelation 5:1-9. Once again, if we zoom out and catch a glimpse of the end of history as we know it, what borrowed perspective on suffering can we gain from Scripture?**



**How does your perception of Jesus affect your perception of your struggles? Explain using one of your own struggles as an example.**

Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, but one day He will return. Yet the God who first came to us as a baby returns to us as a warrior King flanked by raging fire and angels. This is meant to sound incredible to us and make us realize the unique power and authority Jesus has. When you are oppressed, Jesus sees, cares, and will return one day to right the injustices at the center of your sorrow. When we see Jesus this way, we are empowered to face every trial.

- ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 THESSALONIANS 1:10.

**How does the return of Jesus vindicate all the hopes, joys, and sorrows of believers?**

**What keeps you from marveling at Jesus?**

When Jesus returns, believers in His name will be proven right. He will be known by all as King, Savior, and Judge. Because we know He will return, we live active lives that bear witness to that fact. The way we live should tell others that we believe Jesus to be the true and returning Savior. The ascension and judgment of Jesus are not abstract theological ideas but a call to action and holy living.

## **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**Where have you been most tempted to exchange the glory of the kingdom of Christ for the empty promises of the American dream?**

**When the outside world is pressing in on us, how can we help one another see the sovereign and victorious Judge who stands above all the situations in our life and will judge them fairly?**

**If we do not marvel at who Jesus is, it isn't likely that we will ever do great or meaningful things for Jesus. What are you doing to keep your sense of wonder for who Jesus is?**

**How does cultivating this amazement lead to intentional living?**



## ***PRAYER***

Praise the reigning and sovereign Judge of the world for His glory and power. Stop to marvel at who He is and ask that He would help you look at Him with wonder and amazement.

## ***LOOKING AHEAD***

*Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of 1 Thessalonians.*

**November 6, 2022 --- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

