

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

October 30, 2022



INTRODUCTION

If your best friend could get a job someplace that would benefit you in some way, where would you want it to be (i.e. Chick-fil-A, Baskin Robbins, Magoo's, Good Vibes)? Why?

Do you have any good connections like that already—friends or family members whose title or position benefits you in some way? Explain.

Now think about that question in terms of your relationship with Jesus. What are some benefits you receive from knowing Jesus?

Sometimes it pays to know people. When you have a driver's license and are going a little faster than you should, it's good to have a personal relationship with the police officer who pulls you over. When you're hungry and broke, it works in your favor to know someone who works at a place where you can get free food. But here's the thing—the benefits we receive from knowing Jesus are better than any other. And those benefits aren't just abstract hypotheticals. They're real, and they can impact our lives every single day.

DISCUSSION

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

What is Jesus going to do when He returns? How does this make you feel about Jesus: uncomfortable, scared, encouraged, other? Explain.

What comfort is there for Christians in the opposition we face here on earth?

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ REVELATION 5:1-9.

If we zoom out and look at the end of history as we know it, what should be our perspective on suffering?

How does your perception of Jesus affect your perception of the hard things you face? Use one of your own struggles as an example.

One day Jesus will return. That's a fact. But He's not coming back the same way He did before. The God who came to us as a baby will return as a warrior King surrounded by raging fire and angels. That sounds incredible to us, and it's supposed to. It makes us realize the unique power and authority Jesus has. When you are going through hard times, Jesus sees you. He cares about you and what you're going through. And one day He will return to make everything right. When we see Jesus like this, it gives us power to face every trial.

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

What does it mean to marvel at Jesus? Do we do that at FBC Summit? How can we grow in marveling at Jesus?

What keeps you, personally, from marveling at Jesus every day?

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 should live active lives that witness to that fact. The way we live should tell others that we believe Jesus to be the true and returning Savior.

GOING DEEPER

Organize the information presented in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 in this way:

- 1. Facts about who God is and what He will do (vv.6-7).**
- 2. Facts about who Jesus is and what He will do (vv. 8-10).**

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ROMANS 14:10-12.

How do these verses help you keep "every desire to do good" (2Thess. 1:11) even when others do not do good to you?

APPLICATION

In what situation are you tempted to give up on the glory of Jesus's kingdom for the empty promises of this world?

When the outside world is pressing in on us, how can we help each other see the truth about Jesus, standing above all the situations in our lives and judging them fairly?

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

How does cultivating this amazement change the way you live?

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

COMMENTARY

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

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 throws 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).