

WRATH & VENGEANCE

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Deuteronomy 32:39-47

Hebrews 10:30-39

Goodness & Severity

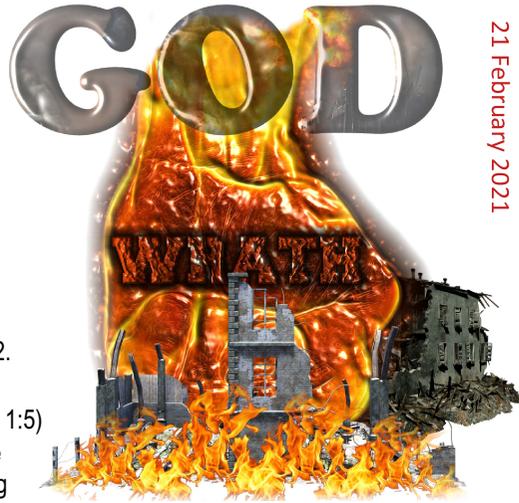
- Meditate on Romans 11:22.

EVIDENCE! (2 Thessalonians 1:5)

- Paul has spoken about the Thessalonians' growing faith towards God and love towards each other. (v. 3)
- He has also spoken about their endurance in their great persecutions and tribulations. (v. 4)
 - Paul is speaking about the trials concerning their suffering **for their testimony of Christ**.
 - ★ NOT their words, but their lives!
 - There is much suffering in the world and everyone has troubles – but much of this is **NOT FOR THE SAKE of CHRIST**. (See 1 Peter 4:15)
 - The truth is that if we suffered more for the sake of Christ we would not be overcome with all of our other sufferings.
- We said last week that persecution and suffering for Christ was **PART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE**.
 - Suffering (for Christ's sake) is PART of being a Christians. (Luke 9:23)
 - God uses tribulations and persecutions to refine us and to conform us into the image of His Son. (Romans 8:28-29)
 - Through troubles our faith is perfected for the glory of God. (1 Peter 1:7)

NEVER WASTE A TRIAL!

- In verse 5, Paul states that the Thessalonians' persecutions for the sake of Christ were EVIDENCE that they were **SAVED** and **COUNTED WORTHY** of the kingdom of God.
 - ★ We **ARE NOT** made worthy by our sufferings.
 - ★ We **ARE ONLY** made worthy by the works of Christ on our behalf.
 - Paul tells Timothy: "If we endure, we will reign with Him!"
 - Endurance is **evidence** that the Holy Spirit resides in us! (Matthew 10:22; 24:13)



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- Endurance is **evidence** that what God has started He will finish. (Philippians 1:6)
- Endurance is **evidence** that God is working **in** us to accomplish His will and purpose through us. (Philippians 2:13)
- **MANY** start but **FEW** finish the race. (Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7; Luke 14:28)
 - ★ **SAINTS press forward** - they **Desire** to grow/finish; they are **Determined** to finish; they are **Disciplined** in their growing so they can finish; they are **Diligent** in their growing; and they **DO** what God's **written** word says to do.
- Endurance (NOT OUR TESTIMONY) is the **ONLY evidence**.
 - Are you counted worthy of the kingdom of God?

The Saint's Reward (2 Thessalonians 1:6-7a)

- Paul comforts the saints of Thessalonika with two assurances!
 - ① God's PROMISE of REPAYMENT on HIS enemies – the promise of HIS vengeance. (Deut. 32:35; Nahum 1:2; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30)
 - ② REST for His saints – physical, spiritual, and emotional rest.
- The saints of Thessalonika **KNEW** that there was coming a time when their suffering would be compensated for in the "turning of the tables" unto their persecutors and they would have the REST they HOPED in.
- (1 Thessalonians 1:3) REMEMBER their "work of faith, labor of love, and **endurance of HOPE** in our Lord Jesus Christ . . ."

God's Wrath & Vengeance (vv. 7b-9)

- "God is Love" (1 John 4:8) **AND** "God is Light." (1 John 1:5)
- One of God's PERFECT ATTRIBUTES is WRATH. His WRATH is as glorious and perfect as His LOVE.
- You CANNOT have JUST a God of LOVE. A god whose only attribute is LOVE is an IDOL and those who worship such a god are idolaters!
- The Bible even speaks of the WRATH of the LAMB. (Revelation 6:16)
- Paul assures the Thessalonians that REPAYMENT for their suffering for Christ's sake will ultimately come at the REVEALING of Christ (Christ's second advent) when He appears with HIS mighty angels – ministers of His judgment.
 - Christ will be revealed "from Heaven" – just as we are told in Acts 1:9-11.
 - Christ will be revealed "with His mighty angels". NOTE "His"! He created all things (Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3; Revelation 4:11) and all things were created "for Him". (Colossians 1:16-17; Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36; Hebrews 1:3; 2:10)
 - READ Psalm 89:5-7; Deuteronomy 33:2; Hebrews 1:14; 12:22-23; Jude 14-15; Daniel 7:10; Matthew 25:21; 24:31; 13:41-42, 49-50.

- Christ will be revealed “in flaming fire” – a symbol of JUDGMENT.
- See Deut. 4:24; 9:3; Exodus 24:17; Numbers 11:1; 16:35; Psalms 21:8-9; 50:2-6; 97:3; Isaiah 66:15-16; Hebrews 10:27; 12:29; 2 Peter 3:7.
- There are **MORE** references to God’s ANGER and WRATH than His LOVE and MERCY in the Bible!!!

ON WHOM?

- When Christ comes the second time He comes with VENGEANCE (NOT GRACE and MERCY) against:
 - ① Those who afflict the people of God. (Genesis 12:3)
 - ★ Those who persecute God’s people persecute Him! (Zechariah 2:8-9; Psalm 17:8; Matthew 25:40, 45; Acts 9:4)
 - ② Those who do not KNOW God. (See John 17:3)
 - Everyone knows that GOD exist. BUT MANY though knowing that He exists refuse to “glorify Him and give Him thanks.” (Romans 1:18-21)
 - ONLY through the gift of grace (salvation) does God INTIMATELY reveal Himself and caused His own to KNOW HIM intimately. (Hebrews 8:11)
 - Many say they know God and even call Him Lord, but Christ will declare that He never KNEW them. Of course, Christ knows everyone but He knows His “special people” (1 Peter 2:9) intimately. (Matthew 7:21-23, 24-29; Amos 3:3)
 - ★ Do YOU KNOW God?
 - Do you know Him religiously? Then you really do not know Him. (Titus 1:16)
 - Are you a diligent disciple of Christ studying God’s revelation of Himself? If not, then you only have an opinion of who God is and you do not know Him! God has revealed Himself in His **written** Word from Genesis to Revelation? A disciple **strives** to know His Master more and more.
 - (Psalm 9:10) Those who KNOW Him TRUST Him. To trust Him means to BELIEVE Him and DO as He commands know that His Word is true and everything else is false. (READ Psalm 91:14)
 - (1 John 2:3-4) How do I know if I really know Him?
 - ③ Those who do not OBEY the Gospel. (See 1 Peter 4:17; Rom. 10:16; Hebrews 5:9)
 - ★ **MANY will say they BELIEVE in order to not go to hell.**
 - ★ **MANY believe in a gospel without REPENTANCE.**

- When Christ preached the Gospel He said, “REPENT and BELIEVE . . .” He used the PRESENT tense, ACTIVE voice, and IMPERATIVE mood. Believing **and** repenting are things that true Christians do ALL the time.
- ★ **MANY define their own repentance. They may confess that they have sinned and ask God for forgiveness but do not repent of their sins. They continue in their disobedience.**
- REPENTANCE: The turning **from** what you believe to be right to what is **written** in the Word of God. Anything less is not repentance and if you are not repenting you are not saved. Repentance is the EVIDENCE that God’s grace has TRANSFORMED from being an ENEMY of God to one now desired to PLEASE Him in all that you do. (2 Cor 5:9-10; Hebrews 13; Colossians 1:9-11)
- His REWARD on these is: **everlasting destruction; separation for the presence of the LORD** (see Psalm 16:11; Revelation 14:10).
- God’s judgment is RIGHTEOUS and JUST. (Deut. 32:4; Revelation 16:7)
- When He comes Christ will be glorified **in** His saints (not by)!

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

(Are you **SURE** of your answer?)
(Do your works agree with you answer?)

Paul Prayed (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

- Paul prayed for the saints at Thessalonica. Do you pray for the saints at HIBC and IBCCelle.
- Paul prayed ALWAYS for the saints at Thessalonica. How often to you pray for the saints at HIBC/IBCCelle?
- Paul prayed that Christ would be glorified in the lives of the saints at Thessalonica. Do you pray for grace for the saints at HIBC/IBCCelle to glorify Christ in their living?