

2 Thessalonians – 2nd Session



NEWS OF THE DAY!

Someone has said, “Good news doesn’t make the news because the reporters are seeking the “shock” factor; not the “feel good” factor.

Former news editor Charlie Beckett explored whether there is an unrelenting negativity in the mainstream news agenda, preoccupied with violent crime, human accident, misfortune and disaster. He asks why alternative, so-called positive or solutions-based, ideas for news are so readily dismissed by journalists, broadcasters and editors.

He says that *“the people of today want to hear the negative more than the positive.”*

Why? #1 answer: The worldview sees the world in darkness and enjoys hearing the negativity of life. This comes from the evil one...who is in control of those loving the worldview more than the biblical view.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10, *“In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”*

Let’s break down these words in these few verses:

“In flaming fire taking vengeance”: For those who persecuted the Thessalonians disciples, this is what the Day of Judgment will be like.

BAD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO DON’T ACCEPT JESUS:

For the persecutors, *those who do not know God*, and *those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus*...it will be a day of **vengeance** and **everlasting destruction**.

- ✓ **In flaming fire:** As bad as hell will be with its flames and unending torment, the idea that the people there will be abandoned from the presence of the Lord...and anything good or uplifting is mind-boggling. Hell will be completely devoid of God and every aspect of His character. The one character the people in hell will see...God's unrelenting justice. Have you ever been in a place when you were a kid and you could only imagine how good of a time and pleasure other kids were having in a park, zoo, etc....only to be missing it because you were being punished for your disobedience? **Well...Hell will be a million times worse! There will never be a time of making up for lost time.**
- ✓ **It is not wrong for God to take vengeance;**
 - We understand this when we understand what the word means in the ancient Greek language. *"The word rendered 'vengeance' has no associations of vindictiveness. It is a compound word based on the same root as the word rendered 'righteous' in vv. 5, 6, and it has the idea of a firm administration of unwavering justice."* (Morris)
 - **The idea is the application of full justice on the offender; nothing more and nothing less.**
- ✓ **"Everlasting destruction":** We must understand that the punishment of the wicked is **everlasting**.
 - As the blessings of heaven are eternal, the penalty of hell is also eternal.
 - *"The perpetual duration of this death is proved from the fact that its opposite is the glory of Christ. This is eternal and has no end."* (Calvin)

We must understand the penalty of the unforgiven sin by the lost not accepting the free gift of salvation in and through Jesus the Christ, our Savior!

The Penalty = Eternal damnation, separation, and constant torment in the flames of hell. Jesus let us know the truth by giving us the conversation between the Father and the rich man. The rich man was in torment...for eternity! Even the man in hell is begging Abraham or anyone to go to his family to tell them of heaven and hell and why they must repent or they will suffer the same consequences he was experiencing.

NOTE: When we suffer with an illness, most of us long for the day we will not have pain and suffering. There is always hope for a new day. Not those in hell...it is ETERNAL.

BUT WAIT...THE GOOD NEWS!

- ✓ **“To be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe”:**
 - ***For the persecuted saints, those who believe, they will have God glorified in them on that Day, and they will see and admire Jesus more than ever.***
 - ***We will admire what God has done in others and in us.***

“Those who look upon the saints will feel a sudden wonderment of sacred delight; they will be startled with the surprising glory of the Lord’s work in them; ‘We thought He would do great things, but this! This surpasses conception!’ Every saint will be a wonder to himself. ‘I thought my bliss would be great, but not like this!’ All his brethren will be a wonder to the perfected believer. He will say, ‘I thought the saints would be perfect, but I never imagined such a transfiguration of excessive glory would be put upon each of them. I could not have imagined my Lord to be so good and gracious.” (Spurgeon)
- ✓ **Because our testimony among you was believed:**
 - This shows the difference between one destined for judgment and one destined for glory.
 - The difference is belief in the message Paul preached (**our testimony**), the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul knew what it was like to be transformed from a persecutor to the persecuted. He believed the **testimony** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it changed his life.

PAUL’S PRAYER FOR THE BELIEVER:

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, *“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Paul’s Heart for the Thessalonian brothers in Christ is seen here:

- ✓ **Therefore we also pray always:**
 - Since the Thessalonian Christians were in the midst of persecution and tribulation, they needed prayer.
 - Here, Paul assured them that he and his associates **pray always** for them.

Note: "Praying always" does not mean that they (Paul, Silas, Timothy and other followers) were speaking to God every second of the day. It means that they were "always" on their mind when they pray for all the Christians under fire. When they prayed, their minds and hearts were centered in on the disciples of Christ who were being persecuted, in harm's way, or were physically and emotionally in acute stress.

- ✓ **That our God would count you worthy of this calling:** God gives Christians a high **calling**, mentioned in the previous sentence. The **calling** is to see Him glorified in us at His coming. Paul rightly prays that the Thessalonians may be counted **worthy of this calling**, and he shows ways to fulfill this calling.
 - *We live worthy of His call when we **fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness**, living lives touched by **His goodness**, and displaying **His goodness**.*
 - *We live worthy of His call when we **fulfill ... the work of faith with power**, believing on Jesus and seeing His work done all around us by faith.*
 - *We live worthy of His call when **the name of our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified in us**. We understand that this means more than the **name of our Lord Jesus** as a word, but also as a representation of His character. We are to live lives as an example of Jesus (living HIS character); growing in the faith.*
 - *We live worthy of His call when we are glorified **in Him**, when He alone is our source of glory and exaltation, and who we are in Jesus is more important than who we are in anything else.*
- ✓ **"According to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ:"**
 - This great work of living worthy of His calling can only happen **according to the grace of God**.
 - It happens by His power, favor, and our acceptance of HIS work in us,
 - It takes OUR agreeing and OUR cooperation...by OUR will being like HIS will.

The news of the day:

We agree to accept HIS will for our lives by our actions of doing His work for His glory! NO PRETENSE, JUST GENUINE TRUST AND OBEDIENCE.!!



JESUS IS COMING, ...Are we becoming like him?