

## “THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PERSPECTIVE”

*Suffering Prepares Us for Glory*

**2 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

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### HELP FOR TROUBLED TIMES

A Brief Series from 2 Thessalonians 1

#### “The Encouragement of Praise”

*Suffering Helps Us to Grow* 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

#### “The Encouragement of Perspective”

*Suffering Prepares Us for Glory* 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

#### “The Encouragement of Prayer”

*Suffering Glorifies Christ Today* 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

*Paul empathized with our struggles, answered some hard questions, and provided perspective on the pain and suffering that we all endure.*

### I. A PERSPECTIVE ON OUR PROBLEM. 1:5

- Their “patience” in suffering was evidence (a manifest token; plain indication) that God’s “righteous judgment” would be favorable toward them.
- Their ability to “abide under” was illustrative of the fact that God had built into them the moral fitness essential to enter the “kingdom of God.”
- Though as yet they had not entered the kingdom, they were already, in a judicial sense, constituents of that coming kingdom, and their behavior under pressure exhibited this fact.

*Your trials are not a result of some divine oversight.*

### II. THE PROMISE OF JUDGMENT. 1:6

- God will recompense them in kind (“to those troubling you, trouble will come”).
- They will receive due and full compensation for what they have done – their sin will not go unpunished. This is the irrevocable principle of a moral God in a moral universe.

### III. THE PEOPLE WHO ARE JUDGED. 1:7b-8

- A. Those that reject. The willfully ignorant – “them that know not God”. The term “vengeance” is not an emotional term but a legal one. It denotes the infliction of full justice on a criminal, giving him all but no more than he justly deserves. It carries the idea of “awarding justice.” This is not a picture of people who possess no knowledge of God, but rather a picture of those who possess it and refuse it. This group does not have an intellectual problem; it has a volitional problem. It is not that they cannot know God; it is that they will not know God! The unbeliever has a preference for darkness because his deeds are evil (cf. John 3:19).
- B. Those that rebel. The intolerably disobedient – those who “obey not the Gospel”. This is a more specific designation of the foregoing group. It refers to the rejection of the ultimate revelation of God’s saving activity, which is contained in the “Gospel” and revolves around “our Lord Jesus Christ.” A part of the moral basis for the judgment of men is their utter rejection of God’s offer of salvation through His Son.

### IV. THE PAIN OF THE JUDGMENT. 1:9

- A. The pain of eternal ruin.
- B. The pain of eternal rejection.

*This is not annihilation, but they will be separated from the presence of the Lord forever, all an outcome of the righteous judgment of God. It is the just recompense of God to repay with affliction those who persecute and afflict believers.*

### V. THE POSITIVES OF THE JUDGMENT. 1:7a, 10

- A. The believers are vindicated. 7a
- B. The believers are victorious. 10

*When Jesus returns as the Judge at the end of the tribulation period, all of the saints will witness this event and all who have believed will marvel at it.*