



2 Thessalonians 1:6-12
The Vengeance of the Lord—Part 1
From Sermon 5.1.22

Read *2 Thessalonians 1:6-12*

Review from Sunday's sermon: The Holy Spirit now has Paul radically shift the tone and focus of the letter. We return the sober reality of the Day of the Lord. For most, this is an ignored and distorted doctrine. Even in many Bible-based churches, this allegorized, symbolized, and often avoided. The event is real. If we believe in Jesus' first coming, we must believe in His second—just as the Scripture states. Things do not get better and better. Jesus is coming, but in judgment and wrath—not service and peace.

1. Someone read "Keys to the Text" (page 62). Then, along with our key passage, answer Question #3 (page 64). What kind of retribution did Paul announce for unbelievers? Repay, Tribulation, Vengeance, Punish(ment), & Destruction by fire.

2. While verses 6 & 8 likely describe one group that was persecuting the Thessalonians, it can also be viewed as categories for the various condemned. Consider each group, describe some of their traits, and read the other passages relating to them.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Traits</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>
"Those who trouble you"	From simple mocking to execution	<i>Revelation 20:4 & Zech. 2:8-9</i>
"Those who do not know God"	The indifferent. The atheist/humanist	<i>Romans 1:18-21</i>
"Those who do not obey the Gospel"	The fakes/phonies. Those who sell faith	<i>Galatians 1:6-9</i>

2a. This kind of study and discussion almost inevitably leads to the topic of "Degrees of Punishment". Will there be varying degrees of hell? Yes. Several passages indicate that. See also *John 19:11 & Jude 12-15, & Hebrews 10:29-31*

3. Most (inside and outside the Church) strongly reject the idea of a vengeful God. Discuss this mindset. A ploy of the devil. Reinvent a god of their own liking and thinking. However, the Bible (and redemptive history) clearly show God's dual natures in perfect harmony. There is perfect harmony of purpose, plan, and nature of the Trinity. See *John 10:30*. The heresy of the meanie God the Father and the exclusively gracious God the Son. Note: Even here, it's Jesus doing the judging and destructing, as in Revelation.

4. What are some common Gospel fallacies (both historic and contemporary)? Various answers. Just be kind. Do unto others. Be sincere. Be generous. Social justice. Do your best. Follow these rules, rituals, and religion. God has provided many different forms and paths. (In the end, most come down to works.) Discuss those that most surprise you or most upset you.

5. What is the biblical, exclusive Gospel? There is one God, and He is holy. Man is totally sinful and utterly incapable of saving himself. God cannot accept anything less than His degree of holiness. Man needs a Savior: perfect, sinless, a new Adam. This Savior will provide an "alien" righteousness to the elect. Jesus came, lived, died, was buried, and resurrected on the third day, according to Scriptures to atone for the elect. Only by faith in Him is anyone saved. See also *1 Corinthians 15:1-4 & 2 Corinthians 5:21*.