

## 20200607 2 Thessalonians 1 God's Final Judgment and Glory

### 2 Thessalonians 1 New King James Version

#### ***Greeting***

**1** *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,*

*To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### ***God's Final Judgment and Glory***

*<sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, <sup>4</sup> so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, <sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> 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.*

*<sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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.*

Short letter which was written right after his first letter. It was written to calm down the church there because for some reason they believed that they had "missed out". They thought the "day of the Lord" had already come and they had missed it.

The first letter dispelled the fears some had about dying before Jesus came back. Paul had written them to explain that a day was coming when Jesus would come back for His own. He told them, when believers die it of course causes us to grieve, but we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Why? <sup>16</sup> *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with*

*the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

So now Paul is going to address Christ's return for judgment. He will come and set foot on the Mount of Olives. This will actually be actually the 3rd coming of Jesus. Remember when we studied the Book of Acts, and we studied the ascension, Jesus spoke words of comfort to the Believers who looked on. Then the text tells us,

*<sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

So you see, we know that He will eventually return to the Mount of Olives from whence He first arose.

Paul begins speaking on behalf of Silas and Timothy. Greets in the "name of God and the Lord Jesus Christ". The demons believe in God, but it doesn't mean they're saved. If Jesus isn't in the mix, the mix isn't right. You know, James says that, "The demons believe and they shudder". So the question today, is what do you think about Jesus? Have you claimed the gift He gave you on the cross. He then says, "grace and peace to you in the Lord Jesus Christ".

Paul, Silas, and Timothy are writing this. Grace and peace are very very important to each of us as born-again Christians. As we spoke last Sunday, grace is about receiving from Him what you and I don't deserve. Grace says that ANYTHING plus Jesus is wrong. God does it all and the test is whether or not we choose to believe Him and receive His free gift to us. Understanding that it is all about grace gives us the confidence to know that we don't have to be "good enough" to make the mark to get to heaven. Salvation is a "gift of God, not of works, lest any man can boast." (Eph 2:8-9)

When we come to understand that measure of God's grace we have a peace that can come in no other way. v.3 Paul thanks God for his congregation. He noted that 1) their faith was growing, and 2) their love for each other was on the increase. That needs to be the measure of our success at Union Grove. Is our faith growing? Is our love for each other on the increase? There are hundreds of books written about methods of growing a church, but a community of faith grows when the faith grows and when the love increases.

The Greek word for "faith" is rooted in the word for "confidence". When we have faith, we have confidence in God's promises, His Word, and His faithfulness. This love, this ἀγάπη is love that loves without expectation. I pray that our FAITH and LOVE will be center and front on

what we're concerned about at UGBC. If and when we get our minds around those two things, we will see God draw others to Him RIGHT HERE. Faith comes in two ways: 1) Hearing the word of God, and 2) Going through various trials (James 1)

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Verse 4. "Persecutions" in Greek is a crushing blow that knocks the breath out of you." In Irish we say, "It came out of the northwest....things that come out of nowhere and they knock you down". Paul is basically saying, "even though you've had the wind knocked out of you, you've kept on keeping on." Maybe that's why they were thinking the end had come. Paul goes on in verse 5 talking about the future judgment. They aren't going through that judgement.

I sincerely do not believe that the church will go through the judgment of the tribulation. God is just and He does pay back : "when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in His blazing power." This will be during the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus. It is the patience they are experiencing in the face of suffering is evidence that God's judgment is correct against those doing it. He's saying when life gets horrible, and we can walk in peace, it is a sign of God's