

# “Persecution and the Justice of God”

## 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12

- A. The judgment described (2Th. 1:6-8).
- B. The consequences of His judgment (2Th. 1:9-10)
- C. Prayer for the Thessalonians (2Th. 1:11-12)

A. The judgment described (2Th. 1:6-8).

1. (vs. 6) Here two things are assumed to be “just”:  
“for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,”
2. (vs. 7a) “and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well.”
  - a. (vs. 7b) This happens on God’s schedule: “when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.” Here, our Lord’s dramatic descent will very likely be at the end of the Tribulation at the Second Advent.



## **Rapture of the Church**

### **1 Thessalonians 4**

**Christ returns in the air.**

**He comes openly for the church.**

**Believers escape the Tribulation.**

**The Rapture occurs at an undisclosed time.**

## **The Second Advent**

### **2 Thessalonians 1**

**Christ returns to the earth.**

**He comes openly with the church.**

**Unbelievers experience tribulation and judgment.**

**The Second Coming occurs at the end of the Tribulation in the day of the Lord.**

b. (vs. 8) His coming at that time will be in temporal judgment, “dealing out retribution (ekdikēsin), that is, “justice will be meted out” (Vine), “to those,” who can be described in two ways:

- 1) “who do not know God”
- 2) “and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus”



B. The consequences of His judgment (2Th. 1:9-10)

1. (vs. 9) This verse looks down the halls of time a little bit to the Great White Throne Judgment because it is “these” same people of the previous verses who “will pay the penalty of eternal destruction,” which is said to involve two things here:

- a. Being “away from the presence of the Lord”
- b. “and from the glory of His power.”

2. (vs. 10) There are two *positive* purposes stated here for that time “when He comes.” He is coming:
    - a. “to be glorified in His saints on that day,”
    - b. “and to be marveled at among all who have believed”
- Paul reiterated to the Thessalonians his certainty that this would take place: “for our testimony to you was believed.”



## C. Prayer for the Thessalonians (1Th. 1:11-12)

1. Paul is probably still thinking about Jesus being glorified in his readers and being marveled at by them. He wants those things to be maximized, so he said, “To this end also we pray for you always” re: two basic things:
  - a. “that our God will count you worthy of your calling,” a rewards concept,
  - b. “and fulfill every (your – NET) desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,” resulting in their being counted worthy of their calling.



2. (vs. 12) Paul's prayers had a two-fold purpose:
  - a. "so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you"
  - b. "and" perhaps surprisingly, "you in Him"
    - Of course, none of this would be possible except "according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." Indeed, it is under the economy of the grace of God that we are saved, sanctified, and glorified.