



## Today's Message

Date: December 3, 2023  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: The Great Day of Judgment

Text: 2 Thessalonians 1:5–12 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— <sup>6</sup> since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, <sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. <sup>11</sup> To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, <sup>12</sup> so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction: In verse 4 of 2 Thessalonians 1, Paul mentioned the church's steadfast endurance of persecutions and afflictions. In v. 5, he declares that these afflictions give evidence of God's justice. How can that be? In ways beyond our grasp, the persecution of God's people accomplishes details of his sovereign plan. In the end, the Bible assures us that Jesus will return to set things right. He will vindicate his Name.

**Today's take-home truth: God is just: He will "balance the books" when Christ returns.**

**I. Our promise: God is just. 6-7a**

- A. He will repay the persecutors.
- B. He will give rest to the persecuted.

**II. Our hope: Jesus will be “unveiled.” 7b-8a**

- A. He will unveil his deity.
- B. He will unveil his power.
- C. He will unveil his wrath.

**III. Our vindication: Jesus will pour out wrath on his enemies. 8b-9**

- A. The objects of his wrath are:
  - 1. Those who do not know God.
  - 2. Those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- B. The nature of his wrath is:
  - 1. Everlasting destruction.
  - 2. Banishment from his presence.

**IV. Our reward: We will “be like him for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). 10**

- A. We will reflect his glory.
- B. We will behold his glory.

**V. Our response: We pray for each other. 11-12**

- A. Pray that God will “complete the good work he began.”
- B. Pray that God will give power for good and faithful service.
- C. Pray for glory and grace.