

“The Justice of God Brings Relief to Those Who Are Afflicted”

2 Thess. 1:5-10 (part 1)

Finding Peace in the Midst of the Storm

Last week we noted 1:1-4. Here we read of Paul’s praise for a preserved people. We read of the character of his gratitude (v.3a), the cause for his gratitude (v.3b), and finally the communication of his joy (v.4).

The text before us picks up where verses 3 and 4 ended. Verse five is transitional, and has a vital connection with verse four.

I. The justice of God brings relief to those who are afflicted (v.6).

What does the word, “Judgment” mean in verse five? It is the rendering of a verdict. It is making an observation and then giving one’s assessment of it. The word righteous comes from the same family as the word justification. When something is right, it is accurate, whole, and genuine.

A. Because God is just, His assessment of what is happening is often far different from ours (v.5a).

How often are we blinded to God’s working? How often are we unable to see beyond the immediate? When this happens we find ourselves wondering and asking, yet in those moments, God is calling us to trust Him, to believe that His ways are wise, merciful, and gracious.

B. Because God is just, our present suffering is part of kingdom compatibility (v.5b).

The word, “Worthy,” means, “To deem entirely deserving.” He uses the normal word with a prefix (**kataxioo**). If something is worthy, it is suitable or deserving. It is comparable.

The suffering does not gain us entrance into the kingdom. Kingdom citizenship marks us for suffering.

C. Because God is just, He will give relief to those who are afflicted (v.7a).

God always provides a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). His grace always proves sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9). The justice of God guarantees our deliverance.

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D. Because God is just, His timetable is different than our timetable (v.7b).

God says He will give us relief, but notice when the certainty of this is fulfilled, "when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire."

It is proper to ask for deliverance ("deliver us from evil"), but our resting in His peace is not dependent on our deliverance.

E. Because God is just, He will be glorified in the Church and be marveled by the Church (v.10).

1. God will be glorified in the Church.

God will be glorified in His Church, and He is the glory of the Church.

2. God will be marveled by the Church.

The word marvel means, "To hold in awe." The idea is that of being "slack jawed."

II. The justice of God repays with retribution those who do not obey the gospel (vv6, 8, 9).