

Lessons From II Thessalonians

Vengeance Is Mine

(II Th 1:5-12)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
 2. Series of “Lessons From II Thessalonians.”
 - a. Two weeks ago we looked at “Reasons For Thanksgiving.”
 - i. **II Th 1:3-4** “We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at “Vengeance Is Mine.”
 - i. **II Th 1:5-9** “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— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 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 8 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. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might”
 3. Paul having just boasted about their steadfastness and faith during their persecution turns to strengthen the brethren in Thessalonica.
 - a. Paul sets forth the theme in verse five for the rest of the chapter, “the certainty of God’s plan.”
 - i. The persecutions and afflictions they were enduring (4) was “evidence of the righteous judgment of God” (5).
 4. With this in mind let us examine today’s lesson.
- I. **Persecuted Vs Persecutor**
- A. Paul, in our text, ties the blessing of being persecuted with salvation
 1. Notice again what Paul writes.
 - i. **II Th 1:4-5** “Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. 5 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”

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From II Thessalonians

2. Paul says plainly that evidence of one's salvation can be found in their persecutions and afflictions **in Christ!!!**
 - i. Why, because persecution, afflictions, trials, etc. are stepping stones to spiritual maturity.
 - a. **Ro 5:3-4** "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"
 - ii. This should come as no surprise to us as Jesus made this point very clear showing that persecutions **in Christ** were blessings that resulted in heaven.
 - a. **Mt 5:11-12** "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
 - iii. Brethren no wonder the apostles were "happy" at being persecuted for Christ.
 - a. **Ac 5:41** "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."
 3. Paul further illustrates this by pointing to the relief those persecuted will find in the righteous judgment of God.
 - i. **II Th 1:7** "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"
 - a. Relief or rest from this weary world has long been the hope of Christians who long for eternity with God and has been promised by God based on His justice.
- B. Paul also turns his attention to those that persecute
1. For years and years people have been saying, "God is a loving God that could not take vengeance on His created children."
 - i. This has led to many false doctrines such as...
 - a. There is no such thing as hell.
 - b. Once saved always saved.
 - c. There is a hell but not for humans on Satan and his demons.
 1. This is just a few of the many.
 2. Paul in verse six and following elaborates on the "righteous judgment of God" on those that persecute God's children.
 - i. **II Th 1:6** "since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you"
 - a. Paul clearly shows that it is a righteous thing that God will recompense affliction to those that are afflicting His children.
 - ii. **II Th 1:8-9** "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. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"
 - a. God's justice demands such a punishment.

Lessons From II Thessalonians

C. Thus...

1. It is important to recognize that God's justice goes both ways sentencing both the righteous and the unrighteous.
 - i. People might not like hearing this from God but it isn't like He has hidden this truth from anyone.
 - a. **Jn 8:32**

II. Proper Persecution Prayer

A. Paul being very familiar with their persecutions offers up encouragement by way of prayer

1. He encourages the brethren there in Thessalonica that they are praying for them.
2. He encourages the brethren there in Thessalonica by letting them know what he is praying on their behalf for.
 - i. He prayed that God would count them worth of their calling.
 - a. This only would happen if they continued to walk faithfully with Him.
 1. **Ep 4:1** "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called"
 - ii. He prayed that God would bless them with everything that they desire from a motive of goodness.
 - a. This only happens if one understands "not my will but thine."
 1. **Ja 4:3** "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."
 - iii. He prayed that God would bless with power every faithful work in which they were involved.
 1. Without God we can accomplish, spiritually nothing, but with Him we can do anything.
 1. **Ph 4:13** "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

B. Thus...

1. When we find ourselves or others dealing with afflictions, persecutions, or the like let us remember not to just pray it ends for them but rather that it benefits them to maturity in their faithfulness.

CONCLUSION

1. "With the words of chapter one, the apostle offered some much-needed encouragement to the Thessalonian Christians. He thanked God for their progress and assured them that they would be rewarded and their persecutors punished." (Notes: II Thessalonians by Parrish, Eddie pg. 6)
 - a. In chapter two Paul will be handling some misunderstandings concerning his first letter.
2. Question: Are you persecuted so as to be assured you home is in heaven?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?

Lessons From II Thessalonians

3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**