

God is Just

II Thessalonians Series – Part 1

Scripture text – II Thessalonians 1:1-10

Introduction

- Paul started the church in Thessalonica during his _____ missionary journey around _____ AD.
- Thessalonica was a _____ & _____ city – highly strategic to the spread of Christianity.
- After several months, Paul was forced to _____ the city. From Corinth, he sent _____ to check on them.
- Timothy reported the church was doing _____, but there were _____ issues Paul might want to address.

The 3 Issues

1. Questioning God's _____
2. Confusion about Christ's _____ coming
3. _____ behavior by a few

Marks of a Successful Church

- Paul commended the church in Thessalonica for the following:
 1. They were a _____ church.
 2. They had _____ faith.
 3. They also had growing _____ for one another.
 4. They had a _____ hope.
- The sad irony is that these are rarely, if ever, the marks of a successful church _____. Instead, we apply mostly _____ standards.
- May God say of us (in this generation): “_____.”

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1st Issue: Questioning God's Fairness

1. God uses _____ & _____ in our lives to _____ the very faith, love and persevering hope that He desires & commends.
 - God never _____ our suffering.
 - We can _____ our suffering to a God who himself _____.
 - Caution: God's good use of our suffering isn't always _____ or _____.

2. God is _____ and will vindicate both himself & his people by _____ the fortunes of the wicked and the righteous.
 - He promises _____ for his people and _____ for those who do not obey the _____.
 - This will take place upon the _____ of Christ. He will come spectacularly in the _____ of His glory & power. Every person will _____ him and _____ to their knees.
 - Why this end? Because God is _____.
 - AW Tozer: "*The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly _____ for the consciences of millions.*"
 - The *only* hope is to throw yourself on the _____ of God through his _____, who died to make _____ for your sin.

Discussion Questions

1. What has been your experience with suffering & hardship? What has it taught you?
2. How is God's justice different from man's?

Who's Who in Today's Message

AW Tozer (1897-1963): An American pastor & author. Everything he did was an extension of a very deep prayer life. His best-known book (and a Christian classic) is *The Knowledge of the Holy*.