

## Sermon Notes



Title: "The Divine Perspective on Why Christians Go Through Tough Times"

Text: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Theme: Standing fast in the midst of hard times and growing closer to Christ is evidence that God is just and righteous. The difficulties, stresses, and challenges you face will be different from others, but God custom designs that the trials you face make you more like Christ and bring glory to the name of Christ.

I. \_\_\_\_\_ to God for Spiritual  
\_\_\_\_\_ (3-4)

II. \_\_\_\_\_ Are an \_\_\_\_\_ of  
God's Purpose to \_\_\_\_\_ His People's  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Him (5)

III. Those Who \_\_\_\_\_ God's People Will Suffer  
\_\_\_\_\_ from God (6-10)

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ for God's \_\_\_\_\_ To Be Seen in  
His \_\_\_\_\_ (11-12)

### V. Applications

A. You do not \_\_\_\_\_ at a stage in your walk with  
Christ where \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
need no longer to \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Every Christian should be \_\_\_\_\_ to  
undergo \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_.

C. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ glory that takes place as  
you are faithful and serve Christ. He is \_\_\_\_\_  
in you, and you are \_\_\_\_\_ in Him!

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:
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1. For what two specific things does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonian believers (1:3)?
2. Why did Paul boast about the Thessalonian church to other congregations (1:4)?
3. What were the Thessalonian believers experiencing (1:4b)?
4. Why did God ordain and permit this church to suffer (1:5)?
5. What is God's just response to those who persecute His people (1:6)?
6. What will God do for His people who are persecuted and afflicted (1:7a)?
7. When will God judge those who persecute His people (1:7b)?
8. Whom does Paul identify as those who will be judged and how will they be judged (1:8)?
9. What is the nature and character of the punishment (1:9)?
10. How does Paul pray for these Thessalonian Christians (1:11)?
11. How do you know if your faith and love are increasing?
12. What practical steps can you take for your faith and your love to grow?
13. How does one really prepare oneself for persecution?
14. What trials are you experiencing in your life right now? How are you handling them? How can you improve?
15. Realizing that Christ will be glorified in His people when He returns, how does this prepare you to faithfully serve Him right now?