

"The Repaying of Debts"

2 Thessalonians
September 29, 2013

III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 - 12)

4. The Gospel Provides The Real Standard By Which God Will Repay Each Person, (vs. 6 - 7a)

Message Emphasis: Many do not see that God will "repay" all people according to the light of the Gospel. We must endure the suffering that declaring the Gospel message brings for God will give relief in due season.

God's Word Warns, *"He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality."* (Romans 2:6-11, ESV)

6.1) God Is Never Unjust In His Ordination Of Repayment

Our Text Says, *"God Considers It Just To Repay (Aor.Act.Inf)" - 1) "...I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 2) They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 3) Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been."* (Revelation 6:9-11, ESV)

- 1) God does not forget the sacrifice of His people
- 2) Those who suffer cry out before God for vengeance but He is sovereign & holy & true
- 3) There is purity & rest in Christ; even in the midst of brutality & death

O God, Thou hast rejected us, And hast afflicted sore, Thou hast been angry, but in grace O once again restore. That Thy beloved may be saved And from their foes set free, Help with the might of Thy right hand, In mercy answer me.

6.2) God's Repayment Is Never Leveled At One's Actions But At One's Nature

Our Text Says, *"With Affliction Those Who Afflict (Pres.Act.Part)" - 1) "and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 2) But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish."* (Luke 16:23-25, ESV)

- 1) Those who afflict will still be hard hearted even after judgment - *"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors... So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."* (James 2:8-13)
- 2) Those who afflict will never confess their sin before God - *"They spend their days in prosperity, and in peace they go down to Sheol. They say to God, 'Depart from us! We do not desire the knowledge of your ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? And what profit do we get if we pray to him?'"* (Job 21:13-15, ESV)

When as the grass the wicked grow, When sinners flourish here below, Then is there endless ruin nigh, But Thou, O Lord, art throned on high; Thy foes shall fall before Thy might, The wicked shall be put to flight.

7.3) God's Gracious Repayment Is Also Granted Based Upon One's Redeemed Nature

Our Text Says, *"Grant Relief To You Who Are Afflicted (Pres.Pas.Part)" - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."* (Matthew 5:10-13)

- 1) See yourself "Blessed" to suffer for Christ
- 2) Rejoice over the promise of Christ's reward in heaven
- 3) Persevere in being "salt" in this world

If I ask Him to receive me, Will He say me nay? Not till earth and not till Heaven Pass away.

Finding, following, keeping, struggling. Is He sure to bless? Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs, Answer, Yes!

*****What Must I Do To Be Saved? ***** **Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ can you endure affliction for the Gospel to the relief of your soul. *"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."* (Isaiah 45:22, ESV)

"The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." (Revelation 11:18, ESV)

5. The Gospel Promises The Real Proof Of Christ's Sovereignty At His Appearing, (vs. 7b - 8)
 6. The Gospel Promises The Real Judgment Of Those Who Do Not Believe In Christ, (vs. 9)
 7. The Gospel Promises The Real Glorification Of Christ When He Confirms The Testimony, (vs. 10)
 8. The Gospel Prepares The Real Faith Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 11)
 9. The Gospel Prepares The Real Grace Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 12)
- B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 - 17)
- C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)