

Title: Salvation from Separation

Text: 2 Thessalonians 1: 6-10

Date: January 6, 2013

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**2 Thessalonians 1: 6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,8: In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10: When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.**

**Subject:** Salvation from Separation

**Proposal:** Christ Jesus saves his people from the separation of hell by bearing that separation himself in our place on the cross.

**Divisions:** 1) We will look at what hell will be for the unbeliever; 2) We will look at how God's people are saved; 3) We will look at what heaven will be for the believer

## **I. WHAT WILL THE ETERNAL PUNISHMENT OF HELL BE FOR THE UNBELIEVER?**

### **Righteous Tribulation**

The day of judgment and hell will be the righteous recompense of tribulation from God—"seeing it is a righteous thing with God." God is Righteous. Everything God does is right. It will be a righteous thing with God.

### **Just Vengeance**

The day of judgment will be the just vengeance of God when the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed—"in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." Vengeance will be the meeting out of justice by God. For those who know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, scripture describes everything about the day of Christ's return and judgment as "flaming fire." Whether it will be actual fire or not, I do not know, but flaming fire is one of those things that we equate with great pain and torment—and that it shall be.

Remember how Mt. Sinai quaked with fire and the people ran in fear? Sinner, if Christ returns while as yet you remain in your sin, under the curse from breaking God's holy law, the holy justice of God demands that everything about his return will be just vengeance of flaming fire upon you.

Christ himself will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire upon you. His mighty angels will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire upon you. His vengeance shall be flaming fire upon you. The eternity of hell shall be flaming fire upon you. In Mark 9, the Lord Jesus describe it as the "fire that is never quenched; the worm that never dies."

Matthew 13: 40: As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41: The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42: And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

It will be just because they obeyed not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They would not believe Christ. Those who meet God under the curse will do so because they would not submit to the truth that Christ alone is the Holiness and Righteousness of his people, the manifestation of the Righteousness of God. God is satisfied with his Son and those resting in his Son alone. Instead, they called God a liar and looked to their vain wisdom and works. They shall meet God under the curse and condemnation of his holy law so it will be the just fire of holy justice on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Everlasting Destruction**

Hell will be the punishment of everlasting destruction—“who shall be punished with everlasting destruction.” Everlasting destruction means it is not the end of being. It is the only the end of all well-being. It is not the end of life but it is the end of all the comforts of life in eternal destruction which never ends.

God is eternal so his justice is eternal. Eternal justice can never be satisfied by man who is not eternal. God’s punishment of the wicked will last eternally. The wages of sin is death and that death is death that never dies, not the first physical death, but the “second death.”

Revelation 20: 6: Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 21:8: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

### **Separation from the Presence of the Lord and from the Glory of his Power**

The sum and substance of this righteous tribulation, this just vengeance, and the everlasting destruction of hell will be separation from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power—“who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

Sin makes a sinner desire that which is the worst possible thing for him—to flee from the presence of the Lord. When Adam sinned and God came into the garden, Adam and Eve “hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.” Throughout his life he does the same. There is a description of a man’s life in Job 21:

Job 21: 7: Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power? 8: Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes. 9: Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them. 10: Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf. 11: They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. 12: They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ. 13: They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. 14: Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. 15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him? 16: Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

Likewise in the day when Christ returns the desire of the wicked will be to flee from presence of the Lord.

Isaiah 2: 20: In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; 21: To go into the clefts of the rocks,

and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

So when his holy angels bring men before him for judgment, Christ's sentence will be to give them what they wanted all their lives.

Matthew 25: 41: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:... 46: And these shall go away into everlasting punishment:

But that will not be the end of the second death, that will, itself, be the punishment of the second death. It will be a place far removed from the glory of his power. Christ the Lord is the glory of God. He upholds all things by the word of his power.

Hebrews 1:3: Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power...

2 Peter 3:7: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

It is the glory of the power of the Lord that keeps the hell in men's hearts, the very heart of enmity within sinners, from breaking out in unbridled wrath. Think of the evil you see in the world now: murder, war, robbing and so on. But the Lord only permits the wrath which praises him, the remainder he restrains—by the glory of his power. He does so for his glory and the good of those given him of the Father, but though they know it not, even the unbeliever benefits from Christ upholding all things by his power. But when Christ says, "Depart from me" and removes his presence and the glory of his power from the wicked, there will only be "outer darkness and wailing and gnashing of teeth." Can you imagine a place without the stability of Christ upholding all things and restraining the wrath of the wicked? It will outer darkness without the glory of his light. (Mt 8: 12; 13: 42, 50; 22: 13; 24: 51; 25: 30) It is called "a lake of fire" because without the glory of his power it will be a place "as unstable as water." And the hell of hell will be an everlasting sight that is never dimmed.

Luke 13: 28: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out...16: 26:...between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

One of the most fearful things for a prosecuting attorney is to be thrown into prison with prisoners he has prosecuted. So it will be for the false preacher, father and mother, who did not teach the truth.

## **II. HOW ARE GOD'S PEOPLE SAVED FROM THIS SEPARATION OF ETERNAL DESTRUCTION?**

That second death will be eternal destruction because we are not eternal. But God the Son is eternal. He came and joined himself with human nature that he might fulfill all righteousness and condemn sin in the flesh for those given him of the Father. On the cross of Calvary, Christ Jesus, being God the Son, offered his Manhood through the eternal Spirit, by which he satisfied eternal justice for his people.

### **Righteous Tribulation and Just Vengeance**

Christ on the cross was made sin for his people. God was right and just in punishing him because “the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity” of all the elect of God. With the sin of his people laid upon him, he became the guilty one in place of his people.

Leviticus 16:21: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

Even in the type, the shadow, that scapegoat was reckoned so impure that the fit man had to be washed before he could come back into the camp.

### **Eternal Destruction**

Christ suffered eternal destruction and finished it for his people when he offered himself through the eternal Spirit. In the picture the scapegoat was presented to the LORD alive, to make atonement with the goat that died. The second death—the curse—will be a living death. On the cross, Christ was alive when he was made a curse for us—he was bearing that living death.

### **Separation from the Presence of God and from the Glory of his Power**

We saw that this second death will be separation from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power in justice. So God in justice forsook Christ on the cross.

Isaiah 53: 8: He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Darkness covered the earth for 3 hours.

Matthew 27: 46: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Christ was paying the wages of that second death his people owed to divine justice when he was cut off from the presence and glorious power of the Lord. He cried, “My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me.” His heel was bruised by Satan. He bore wailing and gnashing of teeth. Christ bore the worm that never dies when he cried, “I am worm and no man.” At the same time, he was the High Priest of his people who remained holy in soul, entering into the presence of God—the holiest of holies—with his own blood.

Hebrews 9: 12:...by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Righteousness entered in. Justice was satisfied. Redemption was accomplished.

John 19: 28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished,...30: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The wages of sin—the death that never dies—was paid in full. Christ condemned sin in the flesh, putting death to death.

Romans 8:3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

2 Corinthians 5:21: For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

### **III. WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE FOR THOSE WHO KNOW GOD AND OBEY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?**

First, “to know God” is to be known of God—born again of the Holy Spirit. To “obey the gospel of Christ” is to believe on him and rest in him from all dead works. Those born of God through faith in Christ are...

Romans 3: 24...justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

So what will heaven be for us, brethren?

#### **Instead of Righteous Tribulation, Righteous Rest and Just Acquitting**

Just as it will be a righteous thing with God to recompense trouble to them that trouble us, “to you who are troubled [it will be a righteous thing to give you ] rest with us, [his apostles] when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.”

This is consolation and instruction to the believer now—“And to you who are troubled rest.” When unbelievers trouble you, rest in Christ. Our rest right now is Christ Jesus. He shall bruise Satan under our feet shortly. But this is also what eternity will be for us who believe on Christ—“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.”

When Christ takes vengeance on them that obey know our gospel, that vengeance will include our acquittal and the meeting out of justice to us which will be to see his glory.

Romans 8:18: For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

#### **Instead of Everlasting Destruction, Everlasting Life with Christ**

Opposite to that everlasting destruction which will be—“from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”—we shall enjoy everlasting joy in the presence of the Lord and by the glory of his power.

#### **Everlasting Glorification**

Christ will bestow glory upon us that we might behold his glory which he had with the Father before the world was made “**when he shall come to be glorified in his saints.**” He will give us perfect knowledge and holiness. We shall be made like unto his glorious body; we will know him fully in the glory of his person and perfections, his wisdom, power, faithfulness, and goodness, in the riches of his grace when Christ shall appear in all his glory to us.

#### **Everlasting Admiration**

For eternity we will ascribe honor, praise, and glory, to him, and give him the glory for saving us when he comes “to be admired in all them that believe...in that day.” How will we receive all this? Will it be by our great works or goodness or wisdom? No. Look at the parenthesis in v10: Paul said, (because our testimony among you was believed.)

Sinner, believe this testimony of my Redeemer. This is our testimony: Jesus Christ has saved all for whom he died from the separation of eternal death into eternal salvation by suffering and dying our death for us. Sinner, how can you not believe on him? And believer, rest in him! Continue in him! Since he was forsaken for us, he says, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

Amen!