

## God's Justice > 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

**1:5-8** *Justice is coming.* Though it sounds odd to our ears, the hardships that Christians face are actually part of God's righteous judgment – they confirm our own faith and they provide the evidence for judging all who oppose Jesus.

**1:9-10** *Justice will be done.* Christ's return will be seen in two ways, depending upon what one believes. For those who rebel against Christ, this justice will look like the judgment they deserve. For those trusting Jesus, his justice will look like his glory being displayed in and through us.

**1:11-12** *Be ready for justice.* How should we prepare? Paul writes that we are to rely on the Lord to make us worthy of what Christ has done for us. We are to trust him, look for ways to honor him, and endure accordingly.

**Background:** These verses are part of Paul's introduction (v3-12 are one sentence in Greek), yet they tell us more about a theme that the Thessalonians are familiar with: persecution.

**The Point:** Christ's return promises judgment upon those who persecute us and glory for we who follow after Christ.

**Head:** Know that Christ will return and that he will perfectly and justly judge.

**Heart:** Believe that the hardships you face on account of Jesus now are part of his good plan for our joy.

**Hands:** Call on the Lord to make you a worthy follower of Jesus who reflects his glory in how you live.

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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