

**Grace Community Church
The Coming Judgment
May 17, 2026**

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.** Considering our study through 1 Thessalonians, what context do you already have to help you understand this letter?
2. **Read 1:1-2.** How could have Paul's salutation encouraged this suffering church? Share about a recent time you were comforted in remembering God's grace and peace that are yours in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. **Read 1:3-4.** How can someone personally cultivate an interest in and maintain a habit of being aware of the persecution of Christians in our world today? Considering verses 3-4, what responses and benefits come from such awareness? How, and why, are you intentional in growing your faith and increasing in love?
4. **Read verses 5-7.** How does the doctrine of God's final judgment help us when we are suffering injustices?¹
5. **Read verses 8-9.** How would you respond to someone who says these verses prove that God is harsh and unfair?
6. **Read verses 10-12.** Considering your sanctification, how is it evident that God has already been at work in you for preparation for Jesus' return? In what area of your life, currently, do you most long for God to be glorified? Considering verses 11-12, end your time in prayer for one another.

SERMON NOTES

Scripture References

- 1 Thessalonians 5:8 [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

¹ Ligon Duncan, [*1 & 2 Thessalonians for You*](#), ed. Carl Laferton, God's Word for You (The Good Book Company, 2023), 166.

- Romans 10:9 [9] because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Proverbs 14:12 [12] There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
- John 10:9 [9] I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
- John 14:6 [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Revelation 22:17 [17] The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Quotes & Notes

- Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians (1) to reassure those terrified by the thought that the day of the Lord had come (2:1–3:5), (2) to strengthen the Thessalonians in the face of unremitting persecution (1:3–12), and (3) to deal with the problem of some of the church members refusing to earn their own living (3:6–15).²
- For context – Sermon on [Acts 17](#); sermon on [1 Thessalonians 1](#) (audio and scripts available)
- Read about [Polycarp](#)
- "I bless thee, that Thou hast granted me this day and hour, that I may share, among the number of the martyrs,"³
- And he said again to him: "I will cause you to be consumed by fire, if you despise the beasts, unless you repent." But Polycarp said: "You threaten with the fire that burns for

² Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2314.

³ Pope Clement I et al., [The Apostolic Fathers](#), ed. Kirsopp Lake, vol. 2, The Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge MA; London: Harvard University Press, 1912–1913), 331.

a time, and is quickly quenched, for you do not know the fire which awaits the wicked in the judgment to come and in everlasting Punishment⁴

- [The Voice of the Martyrs](#); [Open Doors](#)
- The first coming was a rescue mission, but this second coming will be a war.⁵

Sermon Outline

Main point of the text:

Paul wanted to assure the Thessalonians that their endurance of suffering is evidence of belonging to the Kingdom of God and ensure them of the coming righteous judgment of God.

Main point of the sermon:

Does your life show you are prepared for the righteous judgment of God?

Title:

The Coming Judgment

- Grace and peace are available now (1-2)
- Faith, love, and steadfastness show you are ready (3-4)
- Repayment and relief at his revealing (5-7)
- Vengeance, eternal destruction, and separation if you reject Jesus (8-9)
- Glorified in him and marvel at him if you believe in the gospel (10)
- Prepare by depending on God's power in the present (11-12)

⁴ Pope Clement I et al., [The Apostolic Fathers](#), ed. Kirsopp Lake, vol. 2, The Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge MA; London: Harvard University Press, 1912–1913), 327.

⁵ James H. Grant Jr., [1 & 2 Thessalonians: The Hope of Salvation](#), ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), 166.