

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

First RPC Durham

Heidelberg Catechism 52, 'How does Christ's return to judge the living and the dead comfort you? In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.'

I. Rejoicing in the Lord through Suffering (vv 3-4).

- A.** Praise is fitting for the believer
- B.** Reasons for giving praise to the Lord, particularly in sufferings
 - 1)** *Your faith grows exceedingly . . . and faith* (Jb 2:9; Eph 6:16)
 - 2)** *Love of every one of you all abounds toward each other* (1 Th 4:9-10)
 - a)** We are to love others even through our sufferings, guarding against two very common sins of this age, particularly in the midst of suffering: Self-centeredness and Selfishness.
 - b)** Rather, we fight against these temptations by: Looking to the sufferings and service of Christ.
 - 3)** *For your patience* (Jms 1:2-4; Lk 2:42; 2 Cor 4:17-18; Rev 12:11)
- C.** Such evidences of grace mightily minister to the Church
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** Seek out reasons to give the Lord thanks (1 Thes 5:16-18)
 - 2)** Seek out ways to encourage others.
 - 3)** Do you boast of the Lord's work? (Jer 9:23-24)

II. The Christian's Comfort Amidst Suffering (v 5).

- A.** Such sufferings are proof of God's coming judgment against the wicked (Jude 5-7; Gen 6:11-13)
- B.** The grounds of our salvation is in the righteousness of God
- C.** The expectation of the Kingdom of God (Heb 11:35b-37a)
- D.** That our suffering is not in vain (1 Pt 4:12-16)
- E.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** Believe the Lord's promises (Rom 12:17-21)
 - 2)** Look not to ourselves but to the Lord for comfort.
 - 3)** Continue daily, do not waver in looking to the Lord.
 - 4)** Prepare yourselves and your children for persecution.

III. Destruction for the Wicked and Salvation for the Righteous (vv 6-10).**A. Destruction for the Wicked**

- 1)** The grounds of their destruction
 - a)** God's holiness: His righteousness (Rom 6:23) and vengeance (Psa 94:1-2).
 - b)** Man's sin:
 - i.** Troubling the Church (Psa 94:5-8)
 - ii.** Do not know God (Rom 1:18-19, 21; Jn 17:3; Phil 3:8)
 - iii.** Do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 1:5, 16:26, 2:12).
- 2)** Their destruction described further:
 - a)** *In flaming fire taking vengeance* (2 Pt 3:10)
 - b)** *These shall be punished with everlasting destruction*
 - i.** *From the presence of the Lord* (Rev 14:10)
 - ii.** *From the glory of His power* (Lev 10:1-3; Ex 3:2).
- 3)** Uses from the Point
 - a)** Self Examination (Amos 5:18)
 - b)** Give due consideration of the terribleness of hell.
 - c)** Heed the call of the Gospel!

B. Salvation for the Righteous

- 1)** The grounds of salvation — *His saints* (v 10)
- 2)** The means of receiving such salvation (Rom 10:8-9, 13)
- 3)** Our salvation described further:
 - a)** *To give you who are troubled rest with us with us*
 - b)** *When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels . . . when He comes, in that day*
 - c)** *To be glorified in His saints*
 - d)** *To be admired among all those who believe*
- 4)** Uses from the Point
 - a)** In response to the Word of God and in worship of the true and living God, you are to believe in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b)** Take comfort in this hope which surely belongs to all who believe in Christ Jesus (HC 52).
 - c)** Make diligent use of the Sabbath as a day of delight.
 - d)** Glorify and admire the Lord in your life now. (WSC 1).