

SERIES TITLE: FUTURE.ORG
SERMON TITLE: RECOVERY FILES
TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 1

INTRODUCTION.

The believers who lived in the city of Thessalonica received two letters from the Apostle Paul. In his second letter, Paul addressed issues of increased persecution, and confusion over Christ's return. The new level of suffering caused the church to believe rumors that the end was near. As a result, some Christians were deciding not to work. Over the next three weeks, we will study Paul's answer, and learn how to organize life until Jesus returns.

DISCUSSION.

Do you think the average person gives thought to the future? Why or why not?

EXAMINATION.

- V.3 How does someone increase in faith or love?
- V.4 What purpose is served in Paul boasting to other churches about the Thessalonians?
- V.5 In what way do trials act as evidence that God's judgment about us is right? (see 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 1:6-7)
- Vv.6-7 Why is God waiting until the Second Coming to punish the persecutors?
Why is giving relief to those wronged just as important as bringing justice to evil-doers?

Who benefits from this delayed justice?
- Vv.8-9 What do we learn about hell from this passage?
- V.10 What type of future scene do you see described here?

How would Paul's words be an encouragement to the Thessalonians?

APPLICATION.

- What are some of the obstacles to growing in our faith and love?

- How can you be more intentional about growing in faith and love?
- Do you have any current struggles that are the result of you being a follower of Christ? If so, can you describe your experience?
- How does the promise of God's justice help you live for him today?
- Pray Paul's prayer (vv.11-12) for one another, using your own words.
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?