



## **SERMON NOTES**

August 2, 2020

Scripture: II Thessalonians 1:4-8 (NAS)

“Faith Strengthened Through Suffering”

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.
- 5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.
- 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
- 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
- 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

### **I. PAUL'S BOAST IN THIS CHURCH**

- A. Faith
- B. Love
- C. Perseverance In Suffering

### **II. DOES GOD CARE THAT WE ARE SUFFERING?**

- A. Satan Raises That Question *Genesis 3:1, 4, 5*
- B. God's Answer *Romans 8:28, 32*
- C. Faith Grows As Suffering Leads Us To Depend On The Lord

### **III. EVIDENCE OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

- A. God Will Judge Those Who Persecute His People *Romans 12:19*
- B. Faith In Anticipation Of God's Righteous Judgement

### **IV. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO A DIFFERENT VIEW OF SUFFERING**

- A. Unbelief Flees From Suffering *I Corinthians 13:4; Galatians 5:22, 23*
- B. For The Christian Suffering Is:
  - 1. Inevitable, unavoidable *I Thessalonians 3:3; John 15:18-19; I Peter 4:12-13*
  - 2. Suffering is beneficial for believers *James 1:2-4*
    - a. To make us long for heaven *Romans 8:18, 5:1-5*
    - b. To desire the return of Christ
    - c. Destroys the longing for the things of this world
    - d. Teaches us the value of the work Christ did for us

### **V. WHAT DOES “CONSIDERED WORTHY” MEAN?**

- A. Does Not Mean We Have Become Worthy Through Suffering
- B. It Becomes An Evidence Of True Faith *Colossians 1:22-23; James 2:26, 17*

### **VI. THE DUAL NATURE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT**

- A. Justice Satisfied Through Christ *Romans 8:1*
- B. Judgment For Those Who Persist In Persecuting His People *Matthew 5:44*