

We Are Family: Where You Are Perfectly Safe November 10, 2019

(2 Thessalonians 1:5-10)

⁵ All this is evidence that God's judgement is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering. ⁶ God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. This will happen ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

- 1. What percentage of your income would you estimate you spend to feel safe?
- 2. What would make the Thessalonian Christians feel unsafe?
- 3. What kinds of injustices make you upset in 2019?

- 4. How does Paul's description of Judgement Day address those injustices?
- 5. Paul describes Jesus' judgement the same way all the other Bible writers do. Jesus comes to judge all people from all of history. One group gets punishment, the other gets relief. Underline words from these verses that describe the "relief" group. Circle words that describe the "punishment" group. What does this teach you about the groups?
- 6. A co-worker says, "People who don't know God, cannot be held accountable to God's standards. They don't even know him!" What truths might you include in a response to him?
- 7. The word in verse 8 for "obey" the gospel means "what you hear has an impact on you." If a command has an impact on you, you "obey" it. But the gospel isn't a command. It's a *promise*. What do you call it when a *promise* has an impact on you?
- 8. When Pastor Wordell asks confirmation students how they feel about Judgement Day some of them say they can't wait for it to get here and others say they are scared. How would you respond to an 8th grader who says one of those answers?
- 9. No matter what percentage of your income you spend on security, there are always things that make us feel unsafe. (That's how the Thessalonians felt.) What would the *right-now-version* of you say to the *fearful-version* of you to give you assurance and comfort?
- 10. If you knew Jesus was returning on Sunday morning after the 8 AM service. List five things you would do with your time before that.