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Waiting for God's Judgement and Vindication

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

1. Without reference to your Bible, see if you can recite that popular memory verse, John 3:16.

2. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-21.

3. Read Acts 17:1-15. From 2 Th 1:3-5 it appears that the Christians are still being harassed even though Paul has left. What qualities does Paul commend the Christians for? What is Paul's conclusion from what he has heard about the Thessalonians?

4. 'He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled' (v.6-7). Does this meet your definition of justice? Discuss.

5. What thoughts/emotions go through your mind when you read the second half of verse 7 about the Lord's return?

6. According to verses 8-10, what is ahead for those who reject God? Why might this be an encouragement to the Thessalonian Christians?

7. Read John 3:16 and John 3:36. What contrasts appear in each verse?

8. As Christians we say that we 'have salvation'. What is it that we are saved from?

9. What might it mean when Paul writes, 'he comes to be glorified in his holy people' (v.10-12)? What is it about Jesus, that Christians will marvel at, when he returns?

10. Revisit verses 8-9. How can you be active in sharing the gospel with those who don't believe?

11. Like the Thessalonian Christians, we live in a world where injustice is seen everywhere. While we wait for Christ's return, what comfort do you gain from knowing that Jesus will bring justice? How might knowledge of God's final justice and our vindication change your actions? Discuss.

12. Pray for each other using Paul's prayer found in verses 11-12.