

God’s Judgement

Christian history is full of examples of preachers describing a vengeful deity who inflicts scorching consequences on those who ignore His direction. This passage contains images of a fiery Jesus with heaven’s army “inflicting vengeance” on those who do not know God or who reject the Gospel. For Paul, though, this graphic display results in destruction brought on by God’s absence. The image is ironic; Jesus comes in a powerful display not to cause pain, but to remove himself from those who have already rejected Him. The wrath of God is the absence of God. The picture is clear Jesus returns and removes all traces of his grace, including His Church, from those who have aligned with the forces of evil against His kingdom. Can you imagine a world without God’s agents of grace present?

Encouragement

This first section of this letter is not meant to scare non-believers into submission. It is a word of encouragement to an afflicted congregation. In contrast to those who continually choose to disobey the Gospel, the Thessalonians remain faithful even in affliction. This group is sustained by the very Spirit of Christ that enables them to endure. The justice of God will make right the wrongdoing of the oppressor. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Jesus)” Paul’s prayer for them is that they will maintain a resolve that allows their endurance to bring glory to Christ. History tells us that despite these persecutions of this infant church Thessalonica became a stronghold for Christian faith for centuries. How does your current resolve for Christ become a foundation for future generations of Christians? Who is praying for you to endure? Who are you praying for?

A Prayer of Confession

“Forgive us. Lead us in life, not into temptation but to transformation, not to safety, but salvation.”



New Hope Ministries  
Christmas Blessing  
Express/Donate Gifts

- Donate **new** items to be used as Christmas gifts for those in need in our community
- ♥Remove tag(s) from the bulletin board in the foyer.
  - ♥Bring **unwrapped** items to the church no later than **December 1**.
  - ♥Concentrating on items most needed: **teens, household items, plus size clothing.**



At the Cross  
Recovery  
Tonight @  
6:30PM

**REMINDER:**  
Church Elections  
Nov.24th

Check your  
Church directory  
For new faces!

CHURCH STAFF

Rob Kazee, Pastor  
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Jeff Wolfe, Pastor of Spiritual Formation  
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Becky Wolfe, Office Administrator and  
Pastor of Congregational Care & Fellowship  
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**9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School**  
**11 AM - 12:30 PM Worship Service**  
**617 16th St. New Cumberland, PA 17070**  
**717-774-6444**

email: office@tablelifechurch.org  
web: www.tablelifechurch.org  
www.  facebook.com/tablelifechurch

CHURCH OF  
  
THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE  
CHURCH



Order of Worship

10 November 2019

The season of Pentecost

## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

Worship Reading

## We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Sermon Title: Judgement

Preaching: Jeff Wolfe

Scripture Readings: 2 Thessalonians 1

## We Come to the Table

Passing the Peace of Christ

Song of preparation

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

We Eat and Drink Together

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life

Gossiping the Good Stuff

Doxology

Blessing and Sending

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***If you are a guest with us today,***

***Please take time to fill out a***

***Connection Card as you leave.***

***Thank You!***

Please visit us on our website,

[www.tablelifechurch.org](http://www.tablelifechurch.org) for details of events.

Also you will find, Worship folders, Church Calendar, more about our ministries and online giving.

## COMING SOON

Nov 10 Market Street Breakfast Ministry	7:24AM
Nov 10 At the Cross Recovery	6:30PM
Nov 14 Senior/Retiree Luncheon	12:00PM
Nov 17 At the Cross Recovery	6:30PM
Nov 19 Children's Team Meeting	6:30PM
Nov 20 Caravan Awards Ceremony	7:00PM
Nov 24 Church Elections	9:30AM

*Official Church Calendar ~ [www.tablelifechurch.org/calendar](http://www.tablelifechurch.org/calendar)*

## Sermon Reflection Guide

### 2 Thessalonians 1

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Question of the Day:

1) I use my imagination to escape from Life, I do not think my dreams will ever come true or 10) I use my imagination to dream about the possibilities of what can and will happen in the future.

## Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel

St. Paul maintains a view of the age-old struggle between the forces of evil and the forces of good. For Paul, however, the forces of evil have been dealt a mortal blow by the death and resurrection of Christ. Believers now live in a tension between the already and not yet. This tension is experienced in real ways as the conflict between the dying forces of evil and the challenge to live into the new reality that has not yet fully arrived. Christians experience the completed free offering of grace by God yet, "the process—lived between the times—is one of sanctification, in which the Spirit both dwells in believers as God's down payment of the final consummation and acts as God's agency of transformation, conforming their lives to the image of God... (Abraham Smith)". How might the tension of living "between the times" give insight into the daily struggles' believers face? How does the description of "tension" resonate with your current faith journey?

## No Escapism

Christian faith deals in tangible realities. Current culture describes Spirituality as an inner escape from the realities of life's difficulties. Faith becomes another therapeutic exercise to get away from the pain of life. While Christians benefit by getting alone with God, if that time does not propel them into engagement with this broken world then we have missed the point of the incarnation. Paul thanks God for the Thessalonian church that has endured suffering and yet continues to flourish. These believers embrace the grace offered in Christ's death do so by seeing their suffering as conforming to Christ's incarnation. They live with an expectant hope that they too will participate in Christ's resurrection and glorification. How does your life reflect your hope in Christ's return? For what future hope will you to sacrifice comfort for today?