

***“Righting The Wrongs!”***  
***2 Thessalonians 1:8-10***

**Introduction:**

1. In 1986, An Event In The Heavens Captured The Attention Of The Whole World!
  - It Was An Event That Only Came Once Every 76 Years!
  - It Was The Arrival Of Halley’s Comet!
    - And It Took The World By Storm!
    - Children Received Their First Telescopes! Adults Were Planning Comet Parties! Observatories Were Booked Solid! Everyone Wanted To See This Once – Maybe Twice – In A Life-Time Event!
  - And When It Finally Came, The Pictures And Videos Were Spectacular!
    - As This Frozen Ball Of Space-Ice Continued Its Orbit Around The Sun, With A Long, Glistening White Tail!
2. The Arrival Of Halley’s Comet Was Not Always So Welcoming!
  - Before The Invention Of The Telescope, “Comets Seemed To Appear Out Of Nowhere In The Sky & Gradually Vanish Out Of Sight! They Were Usually Considered Bad Omens Of Deaths Of Kings Or Noble Men, Or Coming Catastrophes, Or Even As Attacks By Heavenly Beings!” (Wikipedia)
  - People Were Terrified At The Coming Of A Comet – Because They Were Not Prepared For Its Arrival & Because They Did Not Understand How & Why It Came!
    - The Difference Between Being Fear & Fascination Was:
      - Preparation & Perception!
3. The Coming Of Christ Will Have Similar Reactions As The Coming Of Halley’s Comet!
  - Some Will Be Terrified! And Rightfully So – Because They Are Unprepared!
  - Others Will Be Thrilled! And Rightfully So – Because They Are Prepared & Understand What His Coming Is All About!
  - And To The Persecuted Christians In The Thessalonian Church, Paul Describes The Coming Of Jesus Christ:
    - Read 1:1-7! How Will He Come? Read 1:8-10!
    - Imagine If Halley’s Comet, In 2061, Took A Sudden Turn Toward The Earth! Imagine What It Would Be Like! It Would Be Fast! It Would Be Fiery! It Would Be Powerful – Especially If It Crashed Into The Earth! It Would Be Devastating!
      - But, Like A Heavenly Body Hurdling Through Earth’s Atmosphere, Jesus Himself Will Come “In Flaming Fire!”
    - Why? Because It Is Time For Him To Make Things Right!
      - There Are Three Groups That Will Be Affected By Christ’s Return! And Each One Is Not Currently Receiving What It Deserves!
        - The Wicked! They Always Seem To Prosper!
        - The Lord! He Always Seems To Be Mocked!
        - The Righteous! They Always Seem To Be Persecuted!
      - But When Jesus Returns, He Will Make Things Right!
        - And Everyone Will Get What They Are Due!

**1. *The Wicked Will Receive What They Are Due!***

- 1:6 - “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you” – 1:8-9 - “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: / Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power!”
  - There Is A Purpose For Jesus’ Return!
- He Will Render The Sentence Against The Wicked!
  - “Taking Vengeance” – This Does Not Mean That He Is “Getting Even” – But Rather, That He Is Giving Them Exactly What They Deserve – What They Are Due!
    - The World Does Not Like To Think About God Executing Judgment Against Sinners – But They Have No Problem With Judges & Juries Executing Judgment Against Criminals! And God Has Been Offended Far More Than Any Judge On This Planet!
  - God ***Has Been*** Patient, Longsuffering & Merciful!
    - But There Is A Day Of God’s Vengeance!
    - And For The Wicked – Those Who Have Rebelled Against God & Rejected The Lord

Jesus Christ & His Gospel:

- Ignorance Of The Gospel Will Be No Defense!
  - **IE:** This Is True Even Of Our Laws Today! “Illegal Towing” - Who Knew?
  - They “Know Not God!”
  - Their Ignorance Is A “Willing Ignorance!”
    - 2 Peter 3:5 - “For this they willingly are ignorant of!”
  - God Has Revealed Himself!
    - Through The World! General Rev!
    - Through The Word! Special Rev!
  - Yet, They Still Do Not Know Him! It Is Wholly Their Fault & “They Are Without Excuse!” (Romans 1:18-25)
- Ignoring The Gospel Will Be No Defense!
  - They “Obey Not The Gospel!”
  - **IE:** This Is Especially True! “Officer, I Saw The Sign – I Just Ignored It! Doesn’t Apply To Me!”
  - The Gospel Is Not Just A:
    - Knowledge Of The Good News!
  - The Gospel Is A Call & Command To:
    - Believe & Be Changed By It!
  - 1 John 2:23 - “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ!”
  - When You Ignore The Gospel Call:
    - It Is Disobedience To Christ!
    - It Is Disbelief In Christ!
    - It Is Denial Of Christ! 1 John 5:10 - “He that believeth not God hath made Him a *liar*; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son!”
- And Their Sentence Is A “Righteous Thing!” (1:6)
  - They Will Receive What They Are Due! And:
- He Will Receive The Settlement Of The Wicked!
  - The Sentence / Penalty God Gives / Renders To Them, Is
  - The Sentence / Penalty They Will Pay To God!
    - “Who Shall Be Punished” – Literally: The Penalty They Will Pay!
    - They Will Pay Their Debt!
      - Not To Society – But To God Himself! He Is The One Whom They Offended!
    - What Is The Ultimate Sentence?
      - Life Without Parole?
      - Eternity Without Forgiveness!
        - “Everlasting Destruction!”
  - Where Is This Penalty Paid?
    - Jesus Describes The Place In Mark 9:43-48!
  - How Is This Penalty Paid?
    - Through Separation!
      - “From” The Presence Of The Lord!
        - Literally: “Face!”
        - Psalm 16:11 - “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore!”
      - “From” The Protection Of The Lord!
        - “From The Glory Of His Power!”
        - This Is The Visible Display Of His Might & Is Ultimately Salvation!
        - Isaiah 59:1 - “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save!”
  - And The Wicked Will Receive What They Are Due!

- Even Though The Focus Is On What He Will Do To The Wicked, The Real Priority Of Christ’s Return Is Found In:

- 1:10 - “When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day!”

2. **The Lord Will Receive What He Is Due! (Finally!)**

- When He Comes, HE Will Receive “The Glory Due Unto His Name!” (Psalm 29:2)

- Today, It Seems Like The Troublemakers Get All The Attention! But Not At Christ's Return! HE Will Get The Attention He Deserves!
- He Will Be Adored!
  - "To Be Glorified In (By) His Saints!"
  - We Are Called To Glorify God Always!
    - But It Is Often Imperfect / Incomplete / Even Improper!
  - This Is Why He Is Coming! So We Can Glorify Him In A More Perfect Way! He Will Even Perfect Our Praise!
    - And This Is What He Is Due!
  - What Does It Mean To "Glorify" God?
    - "The Glory We Give God Is Nothing Else But Our Lifting Up His Name In The World, And Magnifying Him In The Eyes Of Others!" (Thomas Watson)
      - Includes: Appreciation (God-Admirers) / Adoration (Worship) / Affection / Subjection!
  - He Deserves To Be Adored!
- He Will Be Admired!
  - "To Be Admired In All Them That Believe!"
    - "Admire" - To Marvel & Wonder At! To Capture Our Attention!
    - Implies, That We Will See Him! And, As Horatio Spafford Puts It: "And Lord, haste the day *when my faith shall be sight*, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul!"
  - He Deserves To Be Admired!
- And The Lord Will Receive What He Is Due!

**Conclusion:**

1. But What Will The Coming Of Christ Be Like To You?
  - Without Knowledge Of Him & His Coming:
    - It Will Be "In Flaming Fire!"
  - But If, Like The Thessalonians, "Our Testimony Among You Was Believed" – You Are Prepared!
    - And You Will Participate!
      - You Will Glorify Him When He Returns!
      - You Will Admire Him When He Returns!
2. And You Will Receive What You Are Due!
  - The Privilege To See Him! Be With Him! Adore Him! Admire Him!
    - Face To Face!
  - What Will The Coming Of Christ Be Like To You?
    - In 1066, Eilmer Of Malmesbury, An English Monk, Upon Seeing Halley's Comet, Said: "You've come, have you? You've come, you source of tears to many mothers, you evil. I hate you! It is long since I saw you; but as I see you now you are much more terrible, for I see you brandishing the downfall of my country. I hate you!"
      - Is This How Christ's Coming Will Overtake You?
      - He Had Little Understanding & Much Fear!
3. But You Don't Need To Fear!
  - The Difference Between Fear & Fascination Is:
  - Perception / Understanding Of & Preparation Through The Gospel!
    - Believe His Testimony! Obey His Call! And When (Not If) But When He Comes, You Will Be Ready!

\* "Face To Face!"

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