

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



In My Heart there Rings a Melody

Hymn 633



Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn 323



**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship

Psalm 119:105-112

Psalm 119:105-112 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Hymn 318



I Surrender All

Hymn 408





Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“Our God is a consuming fire, and we try to reduce Him to something we can handle or are comfortable with ... We are religious consumers. We want our religion to be convenient. It’s the perpetual job of writers, preachers, the church and the gospel to help people respond to God as He reveals Himself.”

EUGENE PETERSON



Today's Message

“Judgment at Christ's Coming”

Part 2

Scripture text: 2 Thessalonians 1

The word vengeance must not be confused with revenge.

The purpose of vengeance is to satisfy God's holy law; the purpose of revenge is to pacify a personal grudge.

God does not hold a grudge against lost sinners.

Quite the contrary, **He sent His Son to die for them, and He pleads with them to return to Him.**

But if sinners prefer to “know not God, and ... obey not the Gospel” (2 Thes. 1:8), **there is nothing left for God to do but judge them.**

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for **even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, **disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**. **Their end will correspond to their deeds.**

Jude 1:14-15 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "**Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.**"

Rest (vv. 7a, 10).

God will recompense tribulation to the lost, but rest to the saved.

The word rest means “relief, release, not under pressure.” **It is the opposite of “tribulation.”** The word describes the releasing of a bowstring. In this life, God’s people are pressured, “pressed out of measure” (2 Cor. 1:8), and under the burdens of trial and persecution. But when we see Christ, **we will be released.** We need not fear fiery wrath and judgment (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9), for God has already judged our sins at Calvary.

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of **the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.**

1 Thessalonians 1:10 and **to wait for his Son** from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

What kind of future is there for the lost?

They face punishment and eternal judgment (2 Thes. 1:9), while **the saved shall enjoy the rest and glories of heaven**. The lost shall be separated from God, while the saved “shall see His face” (Rev. 22:4).

Some cultists have tried to dilute the meaning of “**everlasting destruction**,” saying it means either temporary suffering or total annihilation; but both ideas are false. The phrase means “**eternal judgment**,” no matter how men try to twist it or avoid it (see Matt. 25:41).

Revelation 22:3-5 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and **his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for **the Lord God will be their light,** and they will reign forever and ever.

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

Paul encouraged his friends with praise and promise; and he had a third encouragement.

The Encouragement of Prayer (2 Thes. 1:11–12)

Paul prayed for his converts (1 Thes. 1:2; 3:10). His “to this end (*wherefore*)” in 2 Thessalonians 1:11 means, “And **because of all I have just said**” —the return of Christ to be glorified in the saints, and to judge the lost. **The future prospect of glory motivated the apostle to pray for the saints. We must never neglect a present responsibility because of a future hope. On the contrary, **the future hope must encourage us to be faithful today.****

There were three concerns in Paul's prayer.

Their worthiness (v. 11a).

In 2 Thessalonians 1:5, Paul had stated that he wanted them to be worthy of the kingdom when they entered glory in the future. **But here he emphasized their present situation.**

God's calling was in grace and love, and **Paul desired that they might live up to that calling** (see 2 Thes. 2:13–14).

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

Trials do not make a person; they reveal what a person is made of!

When our faith is tried, we are revealing our worth (1 Peter 1:6–9). God certainly knows our hearts even before we are tried, **but we do not know our own hearts.** And others do not know what we are worth. We need to pray that God will build our worth and make us more valuable Christians **because of the trials we have endured.**

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, **if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith**--more precious than gold that perishes though it is **tested by fire**--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

Their walk (v. 11b).

“that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power”. **Character must lead to conduct.** Paul prayed that they might have a resolute will, **empowered by God**, to do what He wanted them to do. **Obedience and service do not spring from human talent and efforts, but from God’s power as we trust Him.**

Paul had linked faith with love (2 Thes. 1:3) and endurance (2 Thes. 1:4), and here he linked it with power.

If we believe God, we will receive His power in our lives. We cannot be victorious in tribulations if we only trust ourselves; but **we can be victorious through trusting Him.**

Have you ever plugged your phone into an outlet to be recharged while on vacation, only to find out in the morning that it did not charge? Only to later find out that the outlet is controlled by the light switch?

That incident taught me a spiritual lesson: it is easy (by force of habit) to trust a source of power **without checking to see if the switch is on.**

Paul was praying that his friends might “have the switch on” and, **by their faith, receive the power needed to endure suffering and glorify God.**

Their witness (v. 12).

Jesus Christ will be glorified in His saints when they return with Him (2 Thes. 1:10); but **He should also be glorified in our lives today.** Unbelievers blaspheme His name (1 Peter 4:12ff), but believers bless His name and seek to glorify it. The amazing thing is that the believer who glorifies Christ is likewise glorified in Christ, “glorified in you, and you in Him”.

1 Peter 4:12-16 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Rock of Ages

Hymn 108

