

How an extraordinary event shapes our ordinary lives



A study on 1 and 2 Thessalonians



How an extraordinary event
shapes our ordinary life

CHRISTIAN PERSEVERANCE

GOD KNOWS BEST
2 THESSALONIANS 1.1-12

persevere

to persist in anything undertaken;
maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty,
obstacles, or discouragement; continue
steadfastly.



Perseverance: Something to be proud of

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches **we boast about your perseverance and faith** in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

2 Thessalonians 1.3-4



Saints prove their conversion by their perseverance, which comes from a continuously supply of divine grace to their soul.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1.2-4

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

All **this is evidence** that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. **2 Thessalonians 1.5**

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ... I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—**which is a sign** of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

Philippians 1.27-28

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

All this is evidence that **God's judgment is right ... God is just.** He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.

2 Thessalonians 1.5-6

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

“Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding.
Far be it from God to do wickedness,
And from the Almighty to do wrong.

“For He pays a man according to his work,
And makes him find it according to his way.

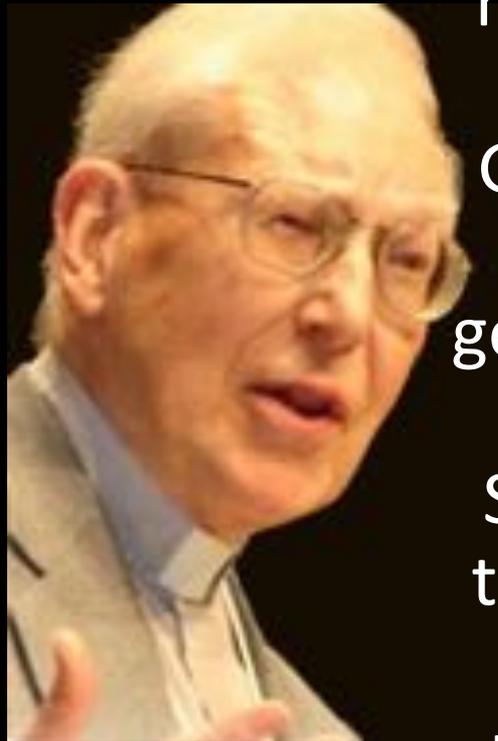
“Surely, God will not act wickedly,
And the Almighty will not pervert justice.

“Who gave Him authority over the earth?
And who has laid *on Him* the whole world?

“If He should determine to do so,
If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath,
All flesh would perish together,
And man would return to dust. **Job 34.10-15**

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

- Now then let the fear of the LORD be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the LORD our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe. **2 Chronicles 19.7**
- To declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
Psalm 92.15
- For there is no partiality with God. **Romans 2.11**
- What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! **Romans 9.14**



J.I. Packer

The character of God is the guarantee that all wrongs will be righted someday; when ‘the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed’ (Rm 2:5) arrives, retribution will be exact, and no problems of cosmic unfairness will remain to haunt us. God is the Judge, so justice will be done... As Judge, he is the law, but as Savior he is the gospel. Run from him now, and you will meet him as the Judge then—and without hope. Seek him now, and you will find him (for “he that seeks finds”), and you will then discover that you are looking forward to that future meeting with joy, knowing that there is now “no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rm 8:1).

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

This will happen when
the Lord Jesus is
revealed from
heaven **in blazing
fire** with his powerful
angels.

2 Thessalonians 1.7



- The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire. **Exodus 3.2**
- Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. **Exodus 19.18**
- A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him. **Daniel 7.10**
- By His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men... the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. **2 Peter 3.7, 10**

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with **everlasting destruction** and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

2 Thessalonians 1.8-9

- For the day of the LORD is near, and it will come as **destruction** from the Almighty. **Joel 1.15**



- The word **destruction**, **טוּ** is formed from the same root as "Almighty, **'טוּ**. It shall come as might from the Mighty." (mighty destruction). In fact, that Day shall come, like might put forth by the Almighty Himself; to destroy His enemies, irresistible, inevitable, unendurable, overwhelming the sinner. (Barnes)

The day of the LORD is indeed great and very terrible,
and who can endure it? **Joel 2.11**



- Therefore be alert and remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. **Acts 20:31**
- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people. **Romans 9.2-3**
- For as I have often told you before, and now tell you even weeping, that *they are* enemies of the cross of Christ. **Philippians 3.18**



Before the atomic attacks on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the US Air Force dropped pamphlets in Japan that promised “prompt and utter destruction” and urged civilians to flee. The bombings led to the deaths of at least 150,000-246,000 people on August 6-9, 1945

Perseverance: A sign of God's righteousness

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. **2 Thessalonians 1.10**

The sun will be turned into darkness
And the moon into blood
Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.
And it will come about that **whoever calls on the name
of the LORD** will be delivered.

Joel 2.31-32

Perseverance: How purpose finds its fulfillment

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that **by his power** he may bring to fruition your every *desire* for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this **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. **2 Thessalonians 1.11-12**



eudokia, the sense of a firm and positive decision



Paul is not naïve about the world of the Thessalonians. Such communities do not happen by accident. They are founded on the purposive presence and call of God, sustained by God's power to bring to fruition acts of love and mercy precisely through the faithfulness and steadfastness of this believing community. This is "tough stuff," not a matter for wimps. Such works depend on "resolve" and "faith". That firm resolve is not to be taken for granted; it too is a gift of God and it comes in response to prayer that is sustained within the broader community of faith. ***James L. Boyce***

The value of courage, persistence, and perseverance has rarely been illustrated more convincingly than in the life story of this man.

At 22 he failed in business

At 23 he ran for Legislature and was defeated

At 24, again, he failed in business

At 25 he was elected to Legislature

At 26 his sweetheart died

At 27 he had a nervous breakdown

At 28 he was defeated for Speaker

At 31 he was defeated for Elector

At 34 he was defeated for Congress

At 37 he was elected to Congress

At 39 he was defeated for Congress

At 46 he was defeated for Senate

At 47 he was defeated for Vice President

At 49 he was defeated for Senate

At 51 he was elected President of the United States

The value of courage, persistence, and perseverance has rarely been illustrated more convincingly than in the life story of this man.

At 22 he failed in business

At 23 he ran for Legislature and was defeated

At 24, again, he failed in business

At 25 he was elected to Legislature

At 26 his sweetheart died

At 27 he had a nervous breakdown

At 28 he was defeated for Speaker

At 31 he was defeated for Elector

At 34 he was defeated for Congress

At 37 he was elected to Congress

At 39 he was defeated for Congress

At 46 he was defeated for Senate

At 47 he was defeated for Vice President

At 49 he was defeated for Senate

At 51 he was elected President of the United States

