

THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD

2 THESSALONIANS 01:06–12

Introduction

This begins the important discussion of the end time, of the end of the world. The first discussion covers the subject that most people dread and try to bypass or deny: *the righteous judgment of God.*

- I. The purpose of judgment: to rectify injustice (v. 6).
- II. The executor of judgment: Jesus Christ Himself (vv. 7-8).
- III. The people to be judged (v. 8).
- IV. The penalty of judgment (v. 9).
- V. The time of judgment (v. 10).
- VI. The escape from judgment (vv. 11-12).

I. 2 Thessalonians 01:06 Judgment: Justice and Injustices

The purpose of judgment is to rectify injustices. Remember: the believers at Thessalonica were suffering fierce persecution and all kinds of trouble at the hands of their neighbours and the local city government. Most of the citizens of Thessalonica wanted nothing to do with Christ, so they sought to stamp out His name, threatening and persecuting all who confessed Him. Just how serious the situation had become can be seen by looking at the account in Acts and the number of times the persecution is referred to in the two letters to the Thessalonians. Note these verses.

Acts 17:5-8 But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil.

Acts 17:13 When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, they went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.

1 Th 1:6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

1 Th 2:14 For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews.

1 Th 2:2 *We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.*

1 Th 3:3-4 *So that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.*

2 Th 1:4 *Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.*

The suffering of the believers was terrifying; therefore, they needed encouragement. This Paul had done in the former passage (2 Th. 1:3-5) and would do at the end of the present passage (2 Th. 1:10-12). But something else was needed as well: the persecutors and unbelievers of the world needed to be warned. God is going to rectify all the injustices of the world. God's judgment is going to fall upon every person who has mistreated others. All unjust behaviour of men will bear the terrible judgment of God, all the...

- killing
- ignoring
- defrauding
- lying
- misusing
- gossiping
- stealing
- arguing
- mocking
- cheating
- ridiculing
- hoarding
- rejecting
- criticizing
- deceiving
- cursing
- abusing
- fighting

The list could go on and on, but the point is this: we live in the midst of an evil and an unjust people. Therefore, much of the world's behaviour — much of man's behaviour — is evil and unjust. God *must judge* the world, for judgment is the righteous and just thing. To judge the injustices of men is the very thing that *must be done*. All the injustices of the world must be corrected. Not to judge would be the wrong and unjust thing. This is the reason God is going to judge the world. He is just and righteous Himself; therefore, His very nature demands that all the injustices and wrongs that men have inflicted upon others be judged and punished. Note how the verse is translated by others:

2 Th. 1:6 *"For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you." (NASB)*

2 Th. 1:6 *"Indeed, it is right for God to repay with crushing sorrows those who cause you these crushing sorrows." (Williams)*

2 Th. 1:6 *"It really is just for God to pay back with suffering those who make you suffer." (Beck)*

2 Th. 1:6 *"[It is a fair decision] since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with distress and affliction those who distress and afflict you." (Amplified New Testament)*

Rom 12:19 *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

2 Th 1:6 *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 Th 1:7-8 *This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

Heb 2:2 *For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment.*

Heb 10:30 *For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."*

Deu 32:35 *"It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."*

Psa 94:1-8, 23 *O Lord, the God who avenges, O God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up, O Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. How long will the wicked, O Lord, how long will the wicked be jubilant? They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting. They crush your people, O Lord; they oppress your inheritance. They slay the widow and the alien; they murder the fatherless. They say, "The Lord does not see; the God of Jacob pays no heed." Take heed, you senseless ones among the people; you fools, when will you become wise? He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness; the Lord our God will destroy them.*

Isa 59:18 *According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.*

Ezek 7:4 *I will not look on you with pity or spare you; I will surely repay you for your conduct and the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that I am the Lord.*

Ezek 9:10 *"So I will not look on them with pity or spare them, but I will bring down on their own heads what they have done."*

Ezek 11:21 *"But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord."*

II. 2 Thessalonians 01:07–08 Judgment by Jesus Christ

The executor of judgment will be Jesus Christ Himself. Note that Jesus Christ is coming to give relief to the believer as well as to judge the world. The believer will be released from the injustices, sufferings and death of this world. As the Pulpit Commentary says:

"[Heaven] is rest to the weary, freedom to the enslaved, release from sorrow, suffering and pain, relaxation from toil, ease from noise and turmoil, the quiet heaven of peace after being tossed about in the tempestuous ocean [of this

world]” (P.J. Gloag. *Second Thessalonians*. “*The Pulpit Commentary*,” Vol. 21, ed. by H.D.M. Spence and Joseph S. Exell. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1950, p. 2).

Heb 4:9 *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God.*

Job 3:17 *There the wicked cease from turmoil, and there the weary are at rest...*

Note that the Person who will execute judgment is Jesus Christ Himself. He is personally going to *return to earth* to judge the world.

1. His return in judgment shall be a spectacular appearance from heaven. The word “revealed” (*apokalupsei*) means to be unveiled and uncovered. The day is coming when Jesus Christ shall rent the heavens and return to earth in judgment. As Mathew Henry says, “He will come in all the pomp and power of the upper world” (*Mathew Henry’s Commentary*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, Vol. 6, p. 794). He will be revealed as the Supreme Majesty and Judge of the world.

John 5:22 *“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.”*

Acts 10:42 *He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.*

Acts 17:31 *“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”*

Rom 2:16 *This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.*

2 Tim 4:1 *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:*

2. His return in judgment will be with the angels of His power. The angels will return with Him for several purposes:

=> to add to the majestic glory and triumph of His person and presence.

Mat 16:27 *“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

Mat 25:31 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.”*

2 Th 1:7 *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.*

=> to carry out His orders and to execute His justice and mercy.

Mat 13:39 *“And the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.”*

Mat 13:49-50 “This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Mat 24:31 “And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

3. His return in judgment will be in blazing fire. This is reference to the brilliance and glory and holiness of His appearance and to the fact that He is coming in judgment. His return in judgment will be in all the majesty and glory of God Himself — so brilliant that it will be as the blazing fire of God’s pure holiness.

Mat 24:30 “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”

Mat 25:31-32 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Mark 8:38 “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

2 Th 1:7-8 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Rev 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

III. 2 Thessalonians 01:08 The People Judged by Jesus Christ

The people to be judged are separated into two classes.

1. All who do not know God, the only living and true God, will be judged. Who are these persons? They are those who sin against natural revelation, who look at creation and fail to see God or to live by the laws that are clearly seen in nature and creation.
 - a. Men can know God within themselves: in their own thoughts, reasoning and consciences.

Rom 1:19 *Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*

Rom 2:15 *Since they [the heathen] show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.*

- b. Men can know God outside of themselves: in creation and nature, the earth and outer space. (See Rom. 1:19; 1:20; 1:21; 2:11-15.)

Acts 14:17 *“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”*

Rom 1:20 *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

Psa 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Psa 97:6 *The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.*

The point is this: men can know that God gives them life and that He cares and provides for them, and that God runs everything in an orderly and lawful way, giving purpose and meaning to life. Men can look at nature and see that God is great and good; therefore, God deserves to be glorified and given thanks. But instead of seeing God and coming to know God, men have rejected Him. Instead of worshipping God...

- some worship the creation, that is, science and man — a humanistic worship.
- some worship the god of their imagination, a thought or image of what God is (a god that allows them to live as they desire).

They are the persons who are to be judged. They are the persons who do not know the living and true God, not personally — not in a personal day to day relationship.

2. All who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ will be judged. Who are these?

⇒ Every person who has ever heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and rejected it.

⇒ Every person who has professed the gospel of Jesus Christ but does not obey the commandments of the gospel.

⇒ Every person who has been baptised but does not obey the commandment of the gospel.

⇒ Every person who has joined the church and holds a membership in the church but does not obey the commandments of the gospel.

Eph 5:3-7 *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place,*

but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

2 Th 1:8 *He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

Heb 2:2-3 *For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.*

Heb 10:29-30 *How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."*

IV. 2 Thessalonians 01:09 The Penalty of Judgment

The penalty of judgment will be terrible, but it will be deserved. Why? Because those who are to be judged had the opportunity to know God, but they chose to deny and curse Him and to walk as they desired throughout life. Note three significant facts about the penalty and punishment of judgment.

1. The word "they" (hoitines) is used in a qualitative sense; that is, it means "persons who are such as" deserve this punishment; "persons who are of such a kind as to" deserve this punishment. The Greek word clearly shows that these persons deserve the punishment of the coming judgment. (This is pointed out by A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. 4, p. 44; and Leon Morris, *The Epistles of Paul to the Thessalonians*. "Tyndale New Testament Commentaries," p. 119.)
2. The phrase "will be punished" (diken tisousin) means to pay the penalty. Mathew Henry says that "they did sin's work, and must receive sin's wages" (*Mathew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 795). Sinners may get away with their sin and rejection of God while on earth, but they will be punished in the final analysis.

Note another fact about the punishment. Note the Greek word for punishment (diken). It comes from the same root as righteous (dikaios). This means that the punishment will be righteous, just — exactly what the person deserves, no more, no less. A person will be measured an exact amount of punishment that he has worked while on earth. God's punishment will not be vindictive; it will be perfectly just, a punishment of retribution — a punishment that pays a person exactly what he deserves.

Mat 18:9 “And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.”

Mat 25:41-46 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Mark 3:29 “But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”

Luke 3:17 “[The Lord] His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Rom 2:8-9 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2 Th 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

Heb 10:29-30 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

2 Pet 2:9 If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

Psa 11:6 On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulphur; a scorching wind will be their lot.

Isa 13:11 I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.

Isa 26:21 See, the Lord is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer.

Isa 59:18 According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.

Jer 21:14 “I will punish you as your deeds deserve, declares the Lord. I will kindle a fire in your forests that will consume everything around you.”

Zep 1:12 At that time I will search Jerusalem [the world] with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.’

Mal 4:1 “Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them.”

3. The words “everlasting destruction” (olethron aionion) do not mean annihilation or ceasing to exist. They mean exactly what they say in this verse: to be shut out, separated from the presence and face of the Lord and from the majesty of His power — an eternity of woe (A.T. Robertson. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. 4, p. 44). They mean complete ruin and loss; to be cut off, excluded, removed, separated, extinguished, deprived, abhorred and banished from all the good things of life.
- ⇒ *Complete ruin and loss*: from all that life should be.
- ⇒ *Cut off*: from the presence of God and from the majesty of His power and of heaven.
- ⇒ *Excluded*: from all joy, pleasure and satisfaction. It is utter emptiness.
- ⇒ *Removed*: from all companionship and associations and from all possessions. It is being left all alone and left with nothing. It is utter loneliness.
- ⇒ *Separated*: from the presence of all goodness and righteousness — from God and from all those who sought after righteousness. And there is no prospect of the separation ever ending, not even for an hour.
- ⇒ *Extinguished*: from love and affection. It is a hell of passion let loose.
- ⇒ *Deprived*: from the Holy Spirit restraining the force of evil. It is a hell of lawlessness.
- ⇒ *Abhorred*: from the bodies of glory. It is a decayed carcass (Isa. 66:23-24).
- ⇒ *Banished*: from all hope. It is being eternally lost forever, and there is no prospect of the banishment ever ending — not even for one hour.

Leon Morris quotes the Biblical scholar James Denny as saying:

“If there is any truth in Scripture at all, this is true — that those who stubbornly refuse to submit to the gospel, and to love and obey Jesus Christ, incur at the Last Advent an infinite and irreparable loss. They pass into a night on which no morning [ever] dawns” (The Epistles of Paul to the Thessalonians. “Tyndale New Testament Commentaries,” p. 120).

Mat 13:30 “Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: ‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Mat 13:49 “This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous.”

Mat 25:10-12 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’”

Mat 25:32 “All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Luke 13:27 “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’”

Luke 16:26 “And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.”

Phil 3:18-19 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

1 Th 5:3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

2 Th 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

1 Tim 6:9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

2 Pet 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves.

2 Pet 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

V. **2 Thessalonians 01:10 The Time of the Judgment**

The time of the judgment is set. Unbelievers are going to be judged...

- when Jesus Christ comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed.

Note the word “in” (en). When Jesus Christ returns, His glory is going to be seen *in His holy people*. All the world will see the wonder and glory of...

- the height of His love
- the depth of His mercy
- the length of His grace
- the breadth of His power

The Lord Jesus Christ has loved and saved us, and the height, depth, length and breadth of His salvation is beyond imagination. His salvation far exceeds anything that we could ever know or describe. When the glory of what Jesus Christ has done for us is manifested, it will explode into such a spectacular demonstration of glory — into a spectacle that will exceed the explosion of all the brilliant lights of the heavenly bodies. The greatness of the glory and love of Jesus Christ will be seen in that day — seen in His dear saints and in all them who believe.

Note one other significant point: He will not only be glorified in that day, He will be admired. Philips' translation says, "It will be a breath-taking wonder." Leon Morris says, "the glory of that day will far surpass anything of which we can have any idea... and when we do behold it we shall be lost in amazement" (*The Epistles of Paul to the Thessalonians*. "Tyndale New Testament Commentaries," p. 120).

VI. 2 Thessalonians 01:11–12 *Escape from Judgment*

Three things are necessary to escape judgment. Note that these two verses are a prayer of Paul for the believers.

1. A person must be counted worthy by God. How can a person be counted worthy? No person has any worthiness of his own; no person is perfect. Therefore, no person has enough goodness to stand before God, for God is perfect. If a person is to be acceptable to God, he has to approach God through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God accepts a person as worthy only if he comes in the name of Jesus Christ — believing in and trusting Jesus Christ to save him. The person who comes to God through Jesus Christ honours Christ, and any person who honours Christ is counted worthy by God. Note: we are not worthy; we possess no righteousness of our own. But God *counts and credits* us with righteousness because we come to Him in the perfect righteousness of His Son. We honour God's Son and God honours anyone who honours His Son.
2. God must complete the work of faith in us. We age, deteriorate, die and decay. We cannot complete anything, not permanently. We can complete something for only a few short years at most, and even then we cannot complete anything perfectly. Nothing that we do is ever perfected. Therefore, if we are to be *saved from judgment and given eternal life*, God has to take our initial belief in Christ...
 - and complete the good pleasure of His goodness in us.
 - and complete the work of faith in us — complete it with omnipotent power.
3. The name of Christ must be glorified in us and we in Him. This simply means that...

- we must let Him live and move and have His being in us — every day.
- we must live and move and have our being in Him — every day.
- we must let Him be glorified in us.

This is the only way to escape judgment. A person can know that he will escape the judgment of God...

- if he has trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord.
- if he knows that God is completing the work of faith in him.
- if he is honouring the name of the Lord and letting the Lord glorify Himself in his life.

Eph 4:1 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

1 John 3:23-24 *And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

Rev 3:20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. ■*