

2 Timothy 1:8-14

April 29, 2020

Three times in the epistles to the Thessalonians we found the phase “the day of the Lord.” Each time it was connected with the time when the Lord comes to judge the earth and inflict just punishment upon sinners.

But in verse 12 of this passage we have just “that day.” Same day? No; it is a day of judgment but not punishment. It is a day of mercy for Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:18) and crowns of reward for Paul (2 Tim. 4:8).

This day is at the believer’s judgment seat of Christ, distinct from the great white throne before which sinners stand to be judged in Revelation 20. We find it in Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 as the place where “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” According to 1 Corinthians 3, on that day we will not be judged but our works will. Unworthy acts will be burned up like hay or straw but those done for the Lord will survive like precious metals or gems.

Questions for study and discussion:

1. Timothy is told to not be ashamed of what two things? How about us?
2. Regarding the “holy calling” of verse 9, who is called? What does it mean that the calling is holy?
3. How are God’s purpose and grace manifested?

We are not told the exact sequence but it would be after we are united with our resurrection bodies and before the Lord’s second return.

It should be no surprise that Paul’s mind is occupied with “that day” as he knows his earthly end approaches. He is satisfied that he has fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:7). He is not ashamed.

One day each of us will stand before the Lord, bearing the deeds we performed in the body. And before that day will be another, arriving gradually or suddenly, when we can no longer add to that “bucket” of deeds. May we, as Paul exhorts Timothy, not be ashamed.

Notes

1:12 The literal Greek at the end of this verse is “my deposit.” The ESV, alone among major translations, reads “... he is able to guard until that day *what has been entrusted to me.*” This makes the interpretation easier, as we would suppose that the deposit entrusted to Paul is the same as he entrusts to Timothy: The gospel and the body of truth about our Lord. But all other versions have the Lord guarding what Paul has entrusted to *Him.*

4. In what way has Jesus abolished death?

5. Why does Paul say that he suffers?

6. What does Paul mean that the One he has believed is able to keep what he has entrusted to Him?

7. What is a pattern (outline/form) of sound words?

8. What deposit is entrusted to Timothy?