

2 Thessalonians 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God,
that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for
which ye also suffer:

Analysis

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer—their perseverance is *endeigma* (ἔνδειγμα, evidence/proof) of God's **righteous judgment** (*dikaias kriseōs*, δικαίας κρίσεως). God deems them **worthy** (*kataxiōthēnai*, καταξιωθῆναι, counted worthy) of His kingdom precisely because they suffer **for which** (*hyper*, ὑπέρ, on behalf of) that kingdom.

This isn't works-righteousness but evidence of genuine faith. Those who inherit the kingdom prove themselves through costly discipleship. God's judgment is righteous because He vindicates sufferers and punishes persecutors (vv. 6-9). Present suffering guarantees future glory for believers.

Historical Context

Jewish theology taught that tribulation preceded Messiah's kingdom (the 'birth pangs of the Messiah'). Paul reframes this: Christians' current suffering is the pathway to kingdom inheritance, not evidence of God's disfavor. Persecution authenticates rather than disqualifies believers.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does suffering for righteousness prove the genuineness of your faith?
2. What kingdom-oriented goal would you endure persecution to see accomplished?
3. How does the promise of being 'counted worthy' differ from earning salvation by works?

Interlinear Text

ἐνδειγμα	τῆς	δικαίας	κρίσεως	τοῦ	θεοῦ	εἰς
Which is a manifest token	G3588	of the righteous	judgment	G3588	of God	that
G1730		G1342	G2920		G2316	G1519
τὸ	καταξιωθῆναι	ὑμᾶς	τῆς	βασιλείας	τοῦ	θεοῦ
G3588	may be counted worthy	ye	G3588	of the kingdom	G3588	of God
	G2661	G5209		G932		G5228
ἥς	καὶ	πάσχετε				
which	also	suffer				
G3739	G2532	G3958				

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 1:28 (References God): And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Acts 14:22 (Kingdom): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Revelation 19:2 (Righteousness): For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Luke 20:35 (Parallel theme): But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

Psalms 99:4 (Righteousness): The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 (References God): Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

2 Timothy 2:12 (Kingdom): If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: