2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be **considered worthy** of the kingdom of God, for which you are also **suffering**—since indeed God considers it just to repay with **affliction** those who **afflict** you, and to grant **relief** to you who are **afflicted** as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who **do not know God** and on those who **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of *eternal* destruction, away from the *presence* of the Lord and from the *glory* of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, 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, 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.

The Proving Ground

- Hagerstown Church
- 15-November-2026
- Greg Bowen

Have you ever thought about the engineering required to create a product for...

- **Medical**
- **Military**
- **Nuclear**
- **Commercial Air** or
- **Outer space?**

Some Nearby Proving Grounds & Test Centers

- **Aberdeen** Proving Grounds where they test weapons and other military equipment.
- **Fort Detrick** tests mobile hospitals and other medical systems and equipment.
- In **New Jersey**, NASA and FAA research, train, and evaluate air traffic control systems, aviation technology, and facilities.
- NASA **Goddard** tests satellite control and operations through simulators.
- A **Boonsboro** Company, Gesac, formerly made "crash dummy" hardware and software.

Challenges...

- Heat & cold extremes
- Drag/aerodynamics
- Radiation/solar wind
- 0G impacts
- Space debris
- Stress
- Friction
- Electrical systems
- Vibration, noise, abrasion
- Crash survival, escape systems
- Propulsion systems
- Flammable / explosive materials

Techniques to Address Risk...

- **Models** (physical, mathematical / computer)
- **Prototypes**
- **Mockups** (miniature, full size, working prototype)
- **Simulations**
- **Testing** & risk reduction in increasing rigor, difficulty, complexity
- **Training**, failure scenarios

What happens when a component or subsystem fails?

A failed part is...

- **Redesigned**,
- **Remade**,
- **Replaced**, or

- Thrown on the **trash heap**!

So …

- What does engineering have to do with the **Bible passage** read earlier?
- How does this verification and validation (aka: **testing**) apply to my **Christian walk**?

The Human System...

- The human **mind**, **body**, and **soul** are far more complex than a spacecraft!

- If we refuse to accept **redesign**, then we are destined for the *trash heap!*

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

They will suffer

- the punishment of *eternal* destruction,
- away from the presence of the Lord and
- from the glory of his might,

when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

1 Corinthians 1:18-19

For the word of the cross is **folly** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Mark 9:43

It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to **gehenna**, to the *unquenchable fire*.

- **Gehenna**, **Hell**, Trash Dump.
- The valley of Hinnom, once celebrated for the horrid worship of Moloch, polluted with every species of filth, as well as animal carcasses, and dead bodies of malefactors;
- constant fires were kept burning to reduce the smell and disease

Earth, is the Proving Ground for Heaven

- This "seen" temporary physical life, is nothing like the "unseen" eternal spiritual life to come
- We have to be prepared, proven, tested by fire
- This life prepares us for the next life
- Learn from your trials
- Be molded, purified, tempered, repaired, redesigned by the creator

Don't Forget to Read the Manual!

- Astronaut training relies on a rather vast, mission-specific library of checklists, handbooks, engineering documents, and procedural manuals tailored to the spacecraft and operations they fly
- Our designer, engineer, and maintainer has given us ONE operators' manual
- ***Read it, Learn it, apply it!***

Test: Satan's accusation

**Be a "crash dummy" for Christ—
Be prepared for eternity!**