

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

January 31, 2016

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude
Worship Theme

God is Good

2 Chronicles 7:1-3: "Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. And all the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord, saying, 'Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting.'"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 97:1, 6

+We Adore Him
Hymn #4, "All Praise To God, Who Reigns Above"

We Confess Our Sin

Heavenly Father, we admit that You have called us to trust You, believe You, and rely on You, and yet we do not always exercise faith. We sinfully prefer to live by earthly sense rather than by Biblical faith. Help us to live as Your pilgrim people- not for this world, nor for the things of this world- but for the glory of the next world. Forgive us all our sins, cleans us by the blood of Christ, and fill us with the Spirit of faith: in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness
Hymn #261, "What Wondrous Love Is This"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Ps. 97:9-10
We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves
Hymn #132, "O Rejoice In The Lord"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper
Hymn #700, "Come, We That Love The Lord"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements
Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)
+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.
*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

When God's People Are Your Treasure, Pt. 6

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Study Notes for January 31, 2016

I. Introduction

II. When God's People Are Your Treasure, 1 Thes. 3:1-13. **G. The Consolation, vv. 7-9.**

1. Paul's State, v. 7a.

-distress

-affliction

...an allusion to a mini-Day of the Lord (cf. Zeph. 1:15; Joel. 1:14-15; Zeph. 1:14a, 17-18; Lk. 13:2b-3)...

That is the Day of the Lord which many a child of God has experienced in part and will continue to experience—which clearly was Paul's conviction as he suffered in Corinth at the time of the writing of our epistle! His was a God ordained trial and difficulty which brought him to the end of himself. That was “The State” in which he found himself when he wrote this epistle: “Distress and Affliction.”

*Note: In this context, it is interesting to think of the physical circumstances in which Paul found himself at the writing of this epistle...

2. His Comfort, vv. 7b-9.

Paul's words here are foreign to us and modern culture. We are a materialistic society which places an enormous value on *our possessions* (be they material or non-material)! So “comfort” comes as we take delight in the things we cherish. Comfort is a movie, a weapon, a shot of alcohol, a hard workout at the gym, a loved one or a close friend, or a club or group. These are the places, people, and things to which we flee and on which we stringently hold when the heat is on!

What a contrast to Paul! Because God's People were His Treasure, his delight, joy, well-being, and COMFORT were intimately united to God's People's delight, joy, well-being, and comfort.

3. His Focus, v. 7c.

-through your faith

1. Recall, the aim of Satan when he endeavors to trip up God's people AND the chief concern of Paul when it came to God's people were one and the same: “their faith” (their unconditional, whole-hearted reliance upon God)!...

...and so it is with mankind! We don't want to be subject to God. We want to be autonomous, independent, and so free to do or think whatever we want.

2. From this you see why “faith” is such an important position for the child of God. Our best is when we are relying upon God... when His word is that which governs us... when we can say, “...yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt” (Mt. 26:39)! This is the genesis of all Spiritual maturation and growth!

***Where We Live**

1. If this is foreign to you, what therefore must be the diagnosis? We are treasuring the wrong things in this life (cf. 3 Jn. 4; 1 Thes. 3:8-9)...
2. What is behind all of this is that which perhaps is foreign to many in the body today! The greatest privilege any man could ever have in this life is being used by God to encourage, build up, and/or establish another in Christ.
3. Now, you can take this as another Christian duty and leave here depressed. Or you can delight yourself in the grace of God and walk away from this passage inspired, redirected, and renewed in your passion to serve the Lord and His people!

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| A. The Sacrifice Willingly Endured, v. 1. |
| B. The Qualified Minister, v. 2a. |
| C. The Ministry, vv. 2b, 5b, 8b. |
| D. The Concern, vv. 3-4. |
| E. The Crises, v. 5. |
| F. The Fruit, v. 6. |

H. The Supplication, vv. 10-13.

1. Some Lexical Details

-most earnestly: Paul uses a double compound here; the idea is that he is having a hard time articulating how passionate he was to see the Thessalonians.

-lacking in your faith: this is a fishing term meaning “to mend nets”! If there were any holes in the Thessalonian’s faith, Paul wanted to mend them

-direct our way: Paul uses a singular verb in reference both to God the Father and Jesus... they are one and the same!!!

2. Little surprise that this was Paul’s prayer and passion for the Thessalonians. In light of everything we’ve seen in this chapter, we’d be shocked if he DIDN’T pray accordingly. Let’s break down this prayer. Paul predictably prayed for three things...

- a. **That he might see their face and complete what was lacking in their faith (v. 10).**

John Calvin said of this, “From this also it appears how necessary it is for us to give careful attention to doctrine, for teachers were not appointed merely with the view of leading men, in the course of a single day or month, to the faith of Christ, but for the purpose of perfecting the faith which has been begun.”

- b. **That God might cause them to increase and abound in love (v. 12).**

We saw last time that Biblical love is not a feeling, but a determined act of will which results in determined acts of self-giving for people who are not worthy. In this regard, it was Paul’s prayer that the Thessalonians not only exhibit this love, BUT EXCELL IN IT!

Understand that one of the reasons God places difficult people in your life is so that you could learn to love as Christ loves you! Christian, understand the big picture and you won’t be found kicking against the goads!

3. **That God might “...establish their hearts unblamable in holiness... at the second coming of Christ” (v. 13). This is a new concept in this chapter...**

-establish: *στηρίζω* (*stērizō*); It carries the idea of putting in a buttress or a support, and so means to strengthen and/or build someone up so that they are able to stand in the midst of severe difficulty.

-unblamable: *ἀμεμπτος* (*amemptos*); this word speaks of ceremonial cleanliness. It is a term used in the context of worship. Accordingly, the focus is NOT on perfection, BUT on being ceremonially clean and so an acceptable sacrifice...

1. If you have been saved by the blood of the Lamb, then you have been cleansed of all sin. Right? And so though you hold a position that is acceptable before the Lord (you’re not guilty of violating the law), nevertheless your practice might not be. That is what Christ was referencing in (Jn. 13:10a; 2 Tim. 2:4)...
2. See it is possible to be cleansed by Christ, but in rebellion to engage in sin. Right? When we do that we don’t lose our salvation; we become ceremonially defiled before the Lord and therefore NOT a vessel He will use in His Kingdom (2 Tim. 2:21; Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2)...

...it was against this backdrop that Paul prayed that he might be part of the sanctifying work of God amongst the Thessalonians- that in and through all things, they would remain pure and so useful to the Master!

*Where We Live

1. Is this how you pray? As materialists we pray quite differently...
2. Illustration: “Being Safe” vs. “Being Courageous”
3. It is not wrong to pray for the physical things of life; God truly is concerned for them! But the greater need in all of our lives is NOT physical/temporal blessing, BUT spiritual health and vigor!