

"Predestined"

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians January 8, 2012

"he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:5-6, ESV)

God Has Predestined His Children Not To Wrath But For Salvation Through Jesus Christ, (vs. 5: 9)

- I. We must pay much closer attention to what we believe about God's work of salvation, (vs. 1: 1 - 3: 13)
 - A. God's choice of His children for salvation is manifest in real-life terms, (vs. 1: 1 - 10)
 - The reality is that either you are part of the Church or you are not, (vs. 1 - 3)
 1. In reality, the Church is not a place, a thing or a system, it is a people, (vs. 1); *"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go."* (Acts 17:1-9, ESV)
 2. Because the Church is a people, there are specific characteristics that they must have, (vs. 2 - 3); *"You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."* (Galatians 5:4-6, ESV)

- B. God's choice of His children for salvation results in correctness & purity, (vs. 2: 1 - 20)
 - C. God's choice of His children for salvation motivates believers to see God's work in others, (vs. 3: 1 - 13)
- II. We must pay much closer attention to how we put into practice what we say we believe, (vs. 4: 1 - 5: 28)
- A. The revelation of God requires that His children live in holiness & purity not lustful passions, (vs. 4: 1 - 12)
 - B. The revelation of God requires that His children be informed about the reality of the last day, (vs. 4: 13 - 5: 11)
 - C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 - 28)
- III. We must pay much closer attention to why we must live with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)
- A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 - 12)
 - B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 - 17)
 - C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)