

**"Not The Word Of Men"**

**1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians**

**February 19, 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)
- B. God's choice of His children for salvation results in correctness & purity, (vs. 2: 1 - 20)
  1. God's gospel of salvation brings conflict among those who are perishing, (vs. 1 - 2)
    - Success in the gospel is not measured by temporal standards, (vs. 1a); *"As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks." (Acts 16:16-24, ESV)*
  
    - Success in the gospel is measured by eternal standards, (vs. 1b); *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God." (Acts 16:25-34, ESV)*

2. God's gospel of salvation is not dependant on worldly means of deception but on God's grace (vs. 3 - 4)
3. God's gospel of salvation does not unduly misrepresent the human condition, (vs. 5 - 6)
4. God's gospel of salvation is manifest in the tender affections of a loving parent, (vs. 7 - 8)

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)