

“Your Whole Body, Spirit & Soul”

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

June 23, 2013

C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord’s return, (vs. 5: 12 – 28)

4. Blamelessness Requires That We Only Seek To Do What Is Absolutely Good, (vs. 15)

How dangerous a thing is it to abuse and wrong meek and forgiving Christians? Their patience and easiness to forgive often invites injury, and encourages vile spirits to insult and trample upon them: but if men would seriously consider it, there is nothing in the world should more scare and affright them from such practices than this. You may abuse and wrong them, they must not avenge themselves, nor repay evil for evil: true, but because they do not, the Lord will; even the Lord to whom they commit the matter; and he will do it to purpose, except ye repent. ~ John Flavel

15.1) We Are Not Liberty To Do Anything Other Than Good

“See (Pres.Act.Impv) No One

Repays (Aor.Act.Subj- reward) Anyone Evil”- *““You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” (Matthew 5:38–41, ESV)*

O Christians yield not to... Heathens! Let all the world see the true greatness, heavenliness, and excellency of our represented pattern; and by true mortification of your corrupt natures, enforce an acknowledgment from the world, that a greater than Socrates is here. He that is really a meek, humble, patient, heavenly Christian, wins this glory to his religion, that it can do more than all other principles and rules in the world. In nothing were the most accomplished Heathens more defective than this forgiving of injuries: It was a thing they could not understand, or, if they did, could never bring their hearts to it; witness that rule of their great Tully: “It is the first office of justice, (saith he), to hurt no man, except first provoked by an injury.” The addition of that exception spoiled his excellent rule. ~ John Flavel

15.2) Doing Good Is An Active Mark Of Regeneration

“Always Seek (Pres.Act.Impv- pursue) To Do

Good To One Another”- *“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:6–10, ESV)*

“Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: being defamed, we intreat.” This certainly is that meekness wrought in us by the wisdom that is from above (Jam 3:17). This makes a man sit sure in the consciences of others, who, with Saul, must acknowledge, when they see themselves so outdone, “Thou art more righteous than I,” (1Sa 24:16, 17). Had we been so much injured, and had such opportunities to revenge them, we should never have passed them by, as these men did. This impresses and stamps the very image of God upon the creature, and makes us like our heavenly Father, who doth good to his enemies, and sends down showers of outward blessings upon them, that pour out floods of wickedness daily to provoke him (Mat 5:44, 45). In a word, this Christian temper of spirit gives a man the true possession and enjoyment of himself. So that our breasts shall be as the Pacific sea, smooth and pleasant, when others are as the raging sea, foaming and casting up mire and dirt. ~ John Flavel

15.3) What Better Place To Show Goodness Than Those Who Don’t Know

“To Everyone”-

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43–48, ESV)

1) “Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 2) For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 3) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:9–12, ESV)

- 1) Returning in like manner is easier, but is it really consistent with God’s call on your life?
- 2) Those who desire a good life guard their tongue and only pursue peace.
- 3) Do you not understand that your “evil” shuts you out from God & His blessing?

Could it be that the “friction” we experience is the direct result of our failure to do good to all?

*Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief. ~ Getty & Townsend*

5. Blamelessness Requires That We Practically Demonstrate A Heart Of Gratitude In All Things, (vs. 16-18)
 6. Blamelessness Requires That We Do Not Discount The Work Of The Holy Spirit, (vs. 19-20)
 7. Blamelessness Requires That We Test All Things By God's Word & Avoid What Is Deficient, (vs. 21-22)

 8. Blamelessness Is Only Accomplished By The Sanctifying Power Of Christ Unto The Last Day, (vs. 23)
 9. Blamelessness Is A Promise That Christ Himself Has Given To Those Who Believe Him, (vs. 24)
 10. Blamelessness In Christ Is The Identifying Mark Of Those Who Love Christ & The Brothers, (vs. 25-26)
 11. Blamelessness Is Not A Secondary Issue But Must Be Primary To The Call Of God's People, (vs. 27-28)
- 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)