

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

July 3, 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!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is our Deliverer

Matthew 1:18-21: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.'"

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 34:1-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #243, "Praise The Savior Now And Ever"

We Confess Our Sin

O God, we who possess Christ possess every spiritual blessing! But we sadly confess that we have wandered from You. Instead of pursuing Your glory, we have pursued our own. Instead of believing Your word, we have believed the world. Instead of living in Your love, we have lived for our sinful selves. Instead of rendering to you the honor and glory that is Your due, we have glorified ourselves, pursuing our pleasure rather than Yours! You would deliver us by grace; we would remain imprisoned for the enjoyment of a speck of sin.

Turn us, O Lord, and we shall be turned. Help us not to commit the same sins again and again. Deliver us from such bondage. Make us to see Jesus again, as He who saves us from our sins. Increase the grace of the Holy Spirit in our lives, that we might live supernaturally. In Christ's name. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #467, "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Ps. 34:15-18

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #649, "More Love To Thee, O Christ"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Ps. 34:8-10

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #498, "Jesus! What A Friend For Sinners!"

**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.

## Perspectives on the Second Coming of Christ, Pt. 4b

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Study Notes for July 3, 2016

### I. Introduction: *The Redemptive Language of Creation* (Rom. 1:20)

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| A. Its Character, 1 Thes. 4:15-17.<br>B. Its Relevancy, 1 Thes. 4:13-14, 18.<br>C. Its Inauguration, 1 Thes. 5:1-5a. |
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### II. Perspectives on the Second Coming of Christ, 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11.

#### D. Its Implication, 1 Thes. 5:6b-11.

1. Knowledge about the Second Coming of Christ should make us Alert, vv. 6a, 7.
2. Knowledge about the Second Coming of Christ should make us Self-controlled, vv. 6b, 8.

Later in his writings, Paul will expand upon this teaching as well as the metaphor of the Christian's armor (cf. Rom. 13:12-13; 2 Cor. 6:7; 10:4; Eph. 6:13-17). Yet here he references two of the most important pieces of equipment in a Roman Soldier's defense: his breastplate and his helmet. So notice how Sobriety is cultivated in the life of the child of God. It occurs when he puts on...

#### The Breastplate of Faith and Love

The word for "breastplate" is θώραξ (*thōrax*)...

In Jewish thinking, this area was significant as it housed two significant parts of the body: the heart and the bowels...

...accordingly, Paul here is talking about safeguarding both our mind as well as our emotions! That is how you cultivate Sobriety as citizens of the Kingdom of God!

What are these virtues? Paul gives them here to us: faith (reliance upon Christ) and love (unconditional service of the Lord)! Let's talk about these...

#### **Faith**

**\*Point:** Knowing the word of God, we must rely upon the Lord in and through all things! This isn't something that comes naturally to us. And so, we must cultivate it in our lives!!!

#### **Love**

**\*Point:** It is this relatively simple choice that makes the difference between being "Sober" (and so driven by God's word) or being Spiritually/morally drunk! Who are you serving?! Who are you loving?!

#### As a Helmet, the Hope of Salvation

The "helmet" referenced here was made of...

The significance of the "helmet" is that it protected the head- which in the Jewish world was the seat of life!

...accordingly when Paul speaks of a helmet which is "the hope of salvation," he is addressing the essence of what enables a Christian to live/thrive in a world of sin, misery, and grief. What is it that enables us to keep going? To blossom in the midst of change, decay, suffering, sickness, and death?

**\*Point:** In light of the truths we have seen from 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11, the call is to set your heart and so your hope on that glorious day when Christ returns, vindicates you, and confers upon you the fullness of salvation! Set this as your sole hope in this life, and you will be Sober-minded indeed!

3. Knowledge about the Second Coming of Christ should make us Effective Ministers in God's Kingdom, v.

Just as in 1 Thes. 4:18, Paul's final exhortation here revolved around Christians utilizing their knowledge of the Second Coming of Christ to strengthen the body of Christ. In other words, Paul here is not only addressing *ethics*, he also is addressing *ministry*- our God-given calling to labor so that the family of God might be solid, immovable, and steadfast in Christ.

Before we define the terms Paul uses here, I want to draw your attention to three important phrases: "one another... one another... just as you also are doing [which would imply another 'one another']". The Bible places great emphasis on "one another" when it comes to body life (cf. Zech. 8:16; Mk. 9:50; Jn. 13:14, 34; Rom. 12:10a, 10b, 16, 13; 14:13, 19; 15:5, 7, 14; 16:16; 1 Cor 11:33; 1 Cor. 12:25; Gal. 5:13; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:2, 32; 5:21; Phil. 2:3; Col. 3:9, 13, 16; 1 Thes. 4:18; 5:13, 15; Heb. 3:13; 10:24; Jam. 5:9, 16a, 16b; 1 Pet. 4:9, 10; 5:5)...

...from this we must see that it is NOT enough for you and me to have a correct view of the Second Coming of Christ and the details surrounding it (as important as that is!!). The teaching/knowledge that Paul gave here must equip us in our calling to "encourage" and "build up" the body of Christ! Get this: to do anything less is to compromise our commitment to Christ!

So with this incredible teaching, we are called to use it unto the growth and maturation of the body of Christ! In fact, Paul gives two exhortations here toward that end. Let's look at them. The first is that we must...

### **Encourage One Another**

The word literally means to call to the side of or to inspire by means of teaching. It primarily is help by way of encouragement, and so carries the sense of drawing near to a person, putting your arm around them, and speaking words of consolation/comfort...

With that, the calling to "encourage" speaks primarily to the MANNER of our ministry. We are called to come alongside each other (which means texting and emailing isn't enough) and speak the word of comfort! What is our OBJECTIVE? That is found in the next exhortation...

### **Build Up One Another**

Jesus used it of "building His church" (Mt. 16:18) and is applied to the growth of the church in Acts 9:31. In Paul's writings, the word is primarily used in the sense of "edifying" the body of Christ. In fact, Paul pictures the body of Christ as a *Temple* with the cornerstone and foundation being laid by Christ and the Apostles (cf. 1 Cor. 3:9-17). Accordingly, throughout the current age, the call is to labor unto the building up of the Temple of God upon the foundation of Christ and the Apostolic teaching- that is the OBJECTIVE (cf. Eph. 2:20-22; 4:14-16)!!!!...

Do you understand that part and parcel of the OBJECTIVE in all that we do- as we fellowship and together work out our salvation- is the strengthening, building up, and encouraging of the body of Christ? Accordingly we must never settle when it comes both to our and our brother's maturation. This is something at which we constantly are to work, labor, and pray!

G. L. Green wrote of this word, "Each individual in the community is responsible for the development of others and of the whole through this mutual building process. This term therefore becomes fundamental to Paul's understanding of the life of the church. The goal of each member of the community is to build up other members of the church (Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:3-5, 12, 17, 26; Eph. 4:12, 29; Col. 2:7) through the use of the gifts of the Spirit." (*The Letters to the Thessalonians*, p. 245)

**\*Where We Live:** A Redemptive Picture from Creation: Red Woods! They are able to stand tall and so tower over the rest of creation because... \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ !