

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

August 23, 2015

*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

God is Omnipotent

Revelation 19:5-7a: "And a voice came from the throne, saying, 'Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.' And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him...'"

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 89:5-8

+We Adore Him

Hymn #8, "Mighty God, While Angels Bless Thee"

We Confess Our Sin

Most merciful God, we confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that we are unable to understand, but which are all known to you.

For this reason, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we can delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #168, "I Greet Thee"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Amos 5:4-6

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #645, "Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Amos 9:13-15

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #289, "A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing"

**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.

## A Cross-Section of an Effective Minister, Pt. 5

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Study Notes for August 16, 2015

### I. Introduction: An Effective Salesman

### II. A Cross-Section of an Effective Minister, 1 Thes. 2:1-12.

#### I. His Message is Nothing Less than the Good News of the Kingdom, Glory, and Unthwartable Purpose of God, v. 9b.

##### Introductory Observations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. He has a Divinely Wrought Boldness, v. 2.</li><li>B. He is Driven by a Passion to Please God, vv. 3, 4b.</li><li>C. He is Tempered by God, v. 4a.</li><li>D. He Views Himself as a Servant of the Body of Christ, v. 5.</li><li>E. He does not Claim his Rights, v. 6.</li><li>F. He is Meek, v. 7.</li><li>G. His Service Involves the Imparting of Himself, v. 8.</li><li>H. His Focus is on Giving not Receiving, v. 9a.</li></ul> |
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1. In this epistle, Paul makes reference to the “gospel” 7 times; over half are in the text before us (cf. vv. 2, 4, 8, 9)!!
2. Consider the expression: “Gospel of God.” It literally translates as “the good news about God” or “God’s good news.” Throughout the epistles of the Thessalonians it is described as...

...in 2 Thes. 2:16, Paul alludes to it as a message of “eternal comfort and good hope.” And in 1 Thes. 2:13, Paul references it as “the word of God’s message.”

3. What is this “message” that God Himself has deigned to give to this world? More specifically, what can we glean from the books of Thessalonians concerning the “gospel” that Paul taught them? When Paul referenced “the gospel of God” as he does in our text, what came into Paul’s mind? What came into the minds of the Thessalonians? In fact consider 1 Thes. 2:11; 3:3b-4a; 5:1-2a; 2 Thes. 2:5...

When Paul referenced in our passage “the gospel of God,” it meant far more both to Paul and the Thessalonians than just a title or a saying. It represented a treasure trove of the richest, most glorious truths imaginable! It is partially why Paul was so effective as a minister! Everywhere he went, Paul brought an eternal message given him by God Himself- a message which brings dead people to life again... a message which would change the world!

This morning in the hopes that we might be so moved, I want you to behold “the gospel of God” as the Paul and the Thessalonians knew it- a gospel which impelled Paul and the Thessalonians to action! **According to the revelation given to us here in Thessalonians, we learn the essence of “the gospel of God”...**

1. Before the world began, God conceived an incredible plan to redeem a people whom He deigned to love from eternity, to bring them to Himself, and so to enjoy a love-relationship with Him forever (2 Thes. 2:13; 1 Thes. 5:9)...
2. As such, He fashioned the world and so deigned to establish a Kingdom over which He would reign with you and me as King (1 Thes. 2:12; 2 Thes. 1:5)...
3. Sadly man is a rebel! In his sin, he cast off God’s authority and so became an enemy of God. As such, mankind stands condemned and so has the terrifying expectation of the wrath and judgment of God! Yet, God in His love was not willing that we should perish. Accordingly, He sent His Son- Jesus Christ- to suffer God’s wrath in our place and so deliver us from it! Listen to how Paul put it beginning in 1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9-10; 4:14...
4. Yet that is getting way ahead of ourselves. Until that time...
  - a. We live in a fallen world where God’s people are the special object of attack and disdain (1 Thes. 5:4-5; 2 Thes. 1:4; 1 Thes. 2:18; 2:14-16a; 3:3b-4a)...
  - b. Yet we ought NOT to be discouraged! God reigns! He has everything under His sovereign control- *FROM* the persecution we receive which God uses to temper us *TO* the acts and activity of man! This indeed is “the good news of God” (2 Thes. 1:5-7)...

- c. In fact, prior to all of this, there is going to be a great apostasy where Satan’s followers rebel greatly against the Lord (2 Thes. 2:3-4, 9-10)...
- d. In the end, Satan and mankind will be judged- the good will enter into glory and the wicked will be cast into hell (1 Thes. 5:2-3; 2 Thes. 1:8-10)...
- e. Yet until then, our confidence and hope as Christians remain in the Lord and His glorious plan (2 Thes. 2:13-14; 1 Thes. 3:13; 4:16-17; 5:23-24; 2 Thes. 2:16-17)!

...this in part is what Paul meant by the “...gospel of God”- God’s Good News!!! Do you see that? All of this is reflected in what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians and therefore what constitutes “the gospel of God” Paul brought with him everywhere he went!

**\*Point:** So what made Paul an Effective Minister? He carried with himself what truly was and remains *The Greatest Story Ever Told!* To borrow an expression from Habakkuk, “What God has and is doing in His Kingdom is so amazing, the world has a hard time believing it even if they were told!” (cf. Hab. 1:5)

**\*Where We Live**

- 1. And so it ought to be with us! In our laps is a book which contains a message which God Himself has given to this world and to His people.
  - a. Honestly, how many of your friends, neighbors, and loved ones know this story? How many in this world are at all familiar with it?
  - b. The Lepers and the Arameans (2 Kings 7:9a)
- 2. This is the impact that good news... yea, GREAT NEWS has on us! What parent hasn’t heard their children fight over who gets to tell the story of what happened when they get home? Great News demands nothing less.
- 3. Rico Tice and Effective Evangelism

“If you’ve ever tried to talk about Jesus and felt weak, scared, with legs made out of jelly, and a message that sticks in your mouth and sounds halting as it leaves your lips, then you’re in good company- that’s exactly what Paul experienced [cf. 1 Cor. 2:3-4]... ¶ Think how incendiary much of what we believe is. We believe Jesus is the only way to know God. We believe the cross is the only way to be forgiven. We believe that one day, everyone will be judged. ¶ So if you are going to talk to people about Jesus, you are going to get hurt. It is going to sever some relationships. It is going to provoke people. Not every time, and depending on our circumstances, friendship groups, workplaces and so on, our experiences will vary; but we will face rejection enough of the time to give us second thoughts, because I don’t know about you, but I don’t particularly like getting hurt.” (*Honest Evangelism*, pp. 21, 15)

“In 2011, I went to St Paul’s Cathedral in London for the memorial service of the Christian leader John Stott, with whom I served at All Soul’s Langham Place. My most striking memory from the service was hearing his secretary of fifty five years, Frances Whitehead, commend him to us. She said of him: ‘The closer I got to him, the more integrity I saw.’ And so her concern was that we held him in the right esteem, because she knew his character deserved it. ¶ John Stott was a great man, but he was a mere man. How much more esteem, glory and worship does the God-man- the one with all authority, who came to be killed in our place and for our salvation- deserve? The closer you get to Jesus- the more you read of him in the Bible and see him at work in your life- the more glory you will see, and the more you will long for him to be treated as he deserves. ¶ It’s that longing that drove Paul’s evangelism in Athens.” (*Honest Evangelism*, p. 28)

- 4. Family of God, little surprise but that is exactly what we see in our passage this morning. Again, one of THE themes of this section is the “Gospel of God”- referenced 4 times, Paul clearly was amazed! As such, he had to share; the message is that glorious and amazing! Christian, do you believe that as well?
- 5. But herein is the rub. If you and I don’t remain in God’s word- reading it, studying it, reflecting upon it- we will soon forget and that which will frame our thinking on a day to day basis will either be our flesh or the spirit of the age!