

## "Destined For This"

### 1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

September 2, 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)
- C. God's choice of His children for salvation motivates believers to see God's work in others, (vs. 3: 1 – 13)

#### **2. The work of the Gospel places believers in harm's way, (vs. 3b – 4)**

##### **3b) The Difficulty You Face As A Believer Is Your Call**

**"You Know (Perf.Act.Ind) We Are Destined"-**

*"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another." (Matthew 24:9-10, ESV)*

##### **4a) The Encouragement You Possess Is God's Revelation**

**"Kept Telling (Impf.Act.Ind) You Beforehand"-**

*"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." (1 Peter 4:12-14, ESV)*

##### **4b) The Affliction That Comes Is Purposed**

**"We Were To Suffer (Pres.Act.Inf) Affliction"-**

*"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Peter 2:21-25, ESV)*

##### **4c) The Opposition Is Real & Reasoned**

**"Has Come (Aor.Mid.Ind) To Pass / Just As You Know (Perf.Act.Ind)"-**

*"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me." (John 16:1-3, ESV)*

**1) "If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 2) Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. 3) If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 4) But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me." (John 15:19-21, ESV)**

- 1) The world rejects the believer as one who has abandoned who they are.
- 2) The world rejects Christ and thusly rejects us.
- 3) Those who are called to follow Christ will listen to our testimony.
- 4) The rejection of Christ is because they do not know Him.

**How have you shied away from the things of Christ for fear of harm?**

3. The work of the Gospel is under constant bombardment from the enemy, (vs. 5)
4. The work of the Gospel bring encouragement to those who labor, (vs. 6 - 7)
5. The work of the Gospel is the only work that truly is worthwhile, (vs. 8 - 9)
6. The work of the Gospel requires the support and interaction of other believers, (vs. 10)
7. The work of the Gospel must be directed by the Lord Himself, (vs. 11)
8. The work of the Gospel can only be successful through the power of Christ, (vs. 12)
9. The work of the Gospel is about bring lost sinners into holiness before God, (vs. 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)