

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

October 25, 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

Christ is a Servant

Isaiah 49:1-3: "Listen to Me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me, and He has also made Me a select arrow; He has hidden Me in His quiver. And He said to Me, 'You are My Servant, Israel, in Whom I will show My glory.'"

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 135:1-2

+We Adore Him

Hymn #166, "Wondrous King, All Glorious"

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty God, we mourn over the sad decay in our spiritual affections. A thousand temptations have pressed in upon us; and by yielding we have driven ourselves from You, and become cold in Your service. Well might You cast us off for our almost perpetual backslidings. But You, O God, are unchangeable. "Those whom You love, You love to the very end!" This is our hope!

We come to You, immutable Jehovah, and beg You to receive Your guilty but returning children. Embrace us once more in the arms of Your eternal love. O let us once more rejoice in Your Fatherly smiles. We have been wretched in our wanderings; our souls can find happiness in nothing but Yourself. We do therefore renew our vows to be Yours, yes, Yours forever. Bind us to You "by the cords of love." Fasten our affections to the cross of Jesus! Never more let us wander. Amen!

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #56, "When All Your Mercies"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** 1 Chrn. 28:9-10

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #591, "Jesus Calls Us"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** 1 Cor. 1:9

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #384, "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

**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.

## An Exposé of a Wicked Man, Pt. 2

1 Thessalonians 2:15b-16

Study Notes for October 25, 2015

**I. Introduction:** our age of Trouble (Jn. 16:32-33; Rev. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:12; Jam. 1:2-4; Jude 17-18; 2 Tim. 3:12-13; Ps. 55:12-14; Jude 12a, 16)...

### II. An Exposé of a Wicked Man, 1 Thes. 2:15b-16.

A. His Identity, v. 15b.

#### B. His Fruit, vv. 15c-16a.

1. As it Pertains to the Genuine Child of God, v. 15c.

2. As it Pertains to God, v. 15d.

**Introductory Remarks on “Pleasing”**- understatement as well as a present tense

**A Shocking Declaration:** again, the focus here is on people in the church... sitting at this moment in church pews... who themselves think that they are pleasing to God! Think of it...

1. Throughout Redemptive and Church History pulpits have abounded with frequent allusions to the grace of God given to His people- like (Mt. 25:21; Rom. 8:1)...
2. As the body of Christ is comprised of both “wheat and tares” (Mt. 13:24-30), this message waters the entire vineyard, doesn’t it? Accordingly, though the wicked amongst us in the body hear the message each week, we know that it is NOT intended for them; they are “tares”! What is a “tare”?
3. That is why this Second Fruit of the Wicked is so brutal... contrary to what they have heard throughout their time in church: (1) It is not well with their soul! (2) They are enemies of God! (3) They in fact are NOT pleasing to God. Cf., Jn. 8:43-44a; rom. 2:19-20, 23-24

#### The Expression, “They are not pleasing to God...”

The word for “pleasing” is ἀρέσκω (*areskō*) which originally meant “to be in a positive relationship with someone.” It presupposes that all past relational transgressions are both known and forgiven!

~Hos. 3:1-3

Such is not the case for the Wicked! They have never been in a positive relationship with Lord. Though they participate in profound religious activities, nevertheless they are the object of God’s wrath and hatred! As we saw last time: religious activity has been given by God to maintain/encourage our relationship with Him... NOT create it!...

**\*Point:** Such is the Second Fruit of the Wicked! They are not Pleasing to God! But instead have as their expectation the wrath of God which is being stored up for “...the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:5b-6)! With that, notice The Third Fruit...

3. As it Pertains to the World, vv. 15e-16a.

#### Hostile to All Men...

This is somewhat of a surprise. As we’ve seen, the Religious Wicked have a life that looks good, religiously. They fast, read, serve, give, and do many other things that look so good. Yet like Stained Glass

Windows, all they really do is keep the light out! And that is the point here...

### “Hostile” Defined

The word for “hostile” literally means, “over against” (*en*, in, *antios*, against). It is used of a person standing directly in front of another (Mk. 15:39) or of an opposing wind (Mt. 14:24; Mk. 6:48; Acts 27:4). In fact, it is the latter that gives the true sense of this term...

~Mt. 14:24

Such is the Third Fruit of a Wicked Man: it is a vigorous, perilous, and brutal attack against ALL men—not just the genuine servant of God! How so? How is it that a religious pagan in the body of Christ is hostile to all men? Because the net-effect of their religion is...

### Hindering

A very serious transgression, Mt. 10:41...

#### “Hinder Defined”

The word for “hinder” speaks not of a *prevention*, but an *impeding* of progress which speaks of varied and/or multifaceted attempts at compromising the gospel witness of genuine believers! In other words, the focus in this text is not necessarily *direct* formal restraint, but *indirect* forms of manipulation.

Examples: Today and no doubt in Paul’s day wicked people in the body of Christ hinder the spread of the gospel...

1. By so occupying the genuine servant of God with attacks that the Christian is so busy with defense that they have limited opportunity for discipleship, evangelizing, and the nurture and care of the body of Christ.
2. By directly opposing any and every effort of bringing the gospel to the lost.
3. By corrupting the gospel message such that if a Gentile heard it they wouldn’t be saved.
4. By compromising the fidelity of the genuine child of God through- alluring them with a false gospel or the ecstasy of religion (as in Baalism).

**\*Point:** Such is the fruit of the Wicked actively working in the body of Christ today! Truly, sin has slain its thousands, but False Religion continues to slay its Ten Thousands! This is the Third and Final Fruit listed here: Hindering Gospel teaching/preaching that All Might be Saved!

### \*Where We Live

1. Zeph. 3:18 speaks of God gathering people who genuinely grieve about the state of the people of God in their day! I look around the church and am grieved and angered by the abuse that is evident to any with knowledge of the truth... and maybe so do you!
2. Yet hear this and be comforted! Though today wicked men and women remain in the church and continue to draw the church down, nevertheless let it be known that in the end they will render account for their deeds; they will be judged (Ps. 58:10-11; Jude 5, 10b, 11a, 13b; 2 The. 1:6-10)!
3. Are you amongst the Wicked? Remain no longer in the darkness, but heed the call of Is. 55:6-7...