

# WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

October 4, 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 Life

John 5:21-23a, 24: "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son... Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Rom. 11:33-36

+We Adore Him

Hymn #56, "When All Your Mercies"

We Confess Our Sin

All-seeing Judge! What is there in heaven or in earth, above, around, without, or within which condemns us not? The sun condemns us, which has seen our mis-deeds; the darkness, too, which hides nothing from Your all-penetrating eye! The cruel accuser justly accuses us. Your righteous law, Your holy Word, our sin-soiled consciences, our public and our private hours write dark things against us! We make no denial. We frame no excuse. We confess, Father, that we have sinned against heaven and before You, and are not worthy to be called Your sons!

But still we live! We live to fly as contrite penitents to Your extended arms! We know that You will not cast us off, for Jesus brings us near. You will not condemn us, for Your dear Son died in our place. You will not mark the mountains upon mountains of our sins, for the Savior has removed them all. His precious blood has washed out every crimson stain! His spotless robe of righteousness covers all our deformities! We put it on by the hand of faith, and we rejoice that we are lovely in His precious loveliness, and beautiful in His matchless beauty. It is in the matchless

name of Jesus that we pray. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #358, "For All The Saints"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication**

Jn. 12:25-26

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #586, "Take My Life, And Let It Be"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Jn. 8:31-32

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #300, "Blessing And Honor"

**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 the Word of God, Pt. 3

1 Thessalonians 2:13-15a

Study Notes for October 4, 2015

**I. Introduction:** The Divine Call to the Child of God: 2 Tim. 1:13-14; Jude 3; 1 Tim. 6:20-21

### II. A Cross-Section of the Word of God, 1 Thes. 2:13-15a.

- A. Its Understanding is According to the Grace of God by which and only through which our Minds are able to Comprehend Truth, v. 13a.
- B. Its Purpose is to Present the Whole Man Complete in Christ, v. 13b.
- C. Its Essence is that it is the Word of God and so the Power of God for Salvation, v. 13c.
- D. Its Work is to Serve as an Ordinary Means of Grace by which God Transforms the Child of God into the Image of Christ, v. 13d.

### E. Its Prerequisite, v. 13e.

An Important Qualification

*Sermon in Seminary...*

Truly, there is no magic verse that will make everything alright. Rather, we must take this Word of God, labor to understand it, and then strive to follow it... or it will all be of no use!! Consider the expressions...

“Perform its Work”

“In You who Believe”

In Scripture, belief/faith has three elements to it: (1) Understanding, (2) Assent, and (3) Trust. Biblical faith involves all three...

Tight Rope Walker

**\*Point:** For any and every Bible passage to a benefit in your life, you must act upon it; you have to “get in!”

**\*Example:** Turn with me to Heb. 4:2...

1. **Context**
2. **The Text**

### **\*Where We Live**

1. Beware of the “Lazy Listening” Syndrome
2. What must we do therefore to profit from the word? Let me encourage you in your study of God’s word to ask of the text three questions...
  - a. What does the text say?...
  - b. What truth strikes you?
  - c. If I was living in light of this truth last week, what difference would this have made?

I love the warning that **Richard Baxter** gave to all preachers of God’s word, “It is a palpable error in those ministers that make such disproportion between their preaching and their living, that they will study hard to preach exactly and study little or not at all to live exactly. All the week long is little enough how to speak two hours; and yet one hour seems too much to study how to live all the week.” (*The Reformed Pastor*, p. 16?)

### F. Its Fruit, vv. 14-15a.

#### Verse 14a

Imitators of whom?

As **Leon Morris** wrote, “It seems curious that he draws attention here to the sufferings of the churches in Judea, when there were churches in the immediate neighbourhood that had suffered.” (*1 and 2 Thessalonians*, TNTC, p. 64)

What is meant by “imitator”?

-imitator: μιμητής (*mimētēs*); this word is rich with meaning. It was used in Platonic philosophy to refer to the relationship between the original and the copy. Recall...

...that is the idea behind this term in the Bible. The word does NOT first denote an active copying, BUT the life that occurs from a shared worldview. And so it is used that way in 3 Jn. 11; Heb. 13:7...

Accordingly, we understand that as Paul sat in Corinth and considered the report that Timothy brought concerning the Thessalonians (cf. 1 Thes. 3:6), he was struck by the fact that though the Thessalonian believers and those in Judea most likely had never interacted, nevertheless they both took on the same characteristics and qualities!

**John MacArthur** wrote, “Though the Thessalonians probably had never been to the churches in Judea to see a pattern they could follow, the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying work was making the Thessalonian church a duplicate of His work in Judea...” (*1 & 2 Thessalonians*. MNTC. p.

**\*Point:** Truly, on account of the Spirit of God working by and with His word, the Thessalonians had become mirror-images of their brethren in Judea! THAT IS THE FRUIT OF GOD’S WORD! In fact, the family resemblance went way beyond the believers in Palestine...

### Verses 14b-15

In this passage, Paul gives different examples of the same fruit from four different places and time: Judea, Paul, the Prophets of Old, and Jesus Christ...

...now other than Paul himself, the Thessalonians had never seen the brethren in Judea, the OT prophets (via God’s word), or the Lord Jesus Himself. And yet strikingly, they looked just like them- they copied them! From this we discern The Fruit of God’s Word... and guess what? It is always the same! And yet, that only makes sense...

1. If we are “being transformed by the renewing of our minds” via God’s word AND the word of God isn’t changing, then we would expect that eventually with growth all of us are going to confess with our life and lip the same truths (cf. 1 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 6:17; Eph. 4:13)!
2. If there were any remaining doubt, listen to Acts 11:26...

**\*Point:** When it comes to The Fruit of the word of God, we learn that it will always be the same. As it is the same Lord... the same word... the same calling... the same gospel... we therefore expect the same fruit!

### **Where We Live**

1. If you want to be an individual and not conform to any set standard, than Christianity and God’s word is not for you...
2. Now this doesn’t mean we will look the same at every point. There is a glorious diversity in our unity. But when it comes to the essentials, a Christian in Asia will look, think, and act the same as a Christian in any other place or time provided they are in the word! Recall 2 Tim. 1:13...
3. This brings us back to an essential point: are you in the word of God? And more importantly, is the word of God shaping your understanding- your mind?
4. This is why a major part of our philosophy of ministry involves Christian Education (Logos, Study Hour) and Biblical Fellowship!

**D. A. Carson** wrote, “Ten times in the little book of Philippians, Paul tells people to think the same thing. You don’t build church unity by ignoring differences, but by doing the hard work of bringing things back to the test of Scripture over and over again.” (Quoted in *Bible Study Magazine*. September/October 2015. p. 13)