

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

November 15, 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!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Coming Again

John 13:38-14:3: "Jesus answered, 'Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a cock shall not crow, until you deny Me three times. Let not your [pl.] heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.'"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Rev. 5:12

+We Adore Him

Hymn #19, "Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord!"

We Confess Our Sin

O God, You have shown us the way of life through Your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, and our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. Amen!

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #267, "The Day of Resurrection"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

1 Cor. 1:10

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #196, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

1 Cor. 1:18-19

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.

Kingdom Treasure, Pt. 2
1 Thessalonians 2:17-20
Study Notes for November 15, 2015

I. Introduction: *These are the treasures of the church* (1 Thes. 2:19-20; Deut. 32:9)

II. Kingdom Treasure, 1 Thes. 3:17-20.

A. Its Content, vv. 19-20.

B. Its Appraisal, v. 17a.

Items of value in our world are appraised, right? ...that is what Paul is referencing in this text!

He was “bereft” of the Thessalonians “for a short while”... Yet though they were out of sight, they nevertheless were NOT out of mind. They continued to occupy a large part of Paul’s concern, thinking, prayer, and worry. Why? Because they were “in his heart”! Notice the expression...

-in person, not **in spirit** (Philm. 12; Phil. 1:7a)...

Is this sentimentalism? Absolutely not!!! In the Hebrew mind “the heart” was understood to be the seat of all thinking and so the root of one’s emotion. To have someone in your “heart” indicates that they hold a position of priority when it comes to your intentions, will, plans, and goals. The expression denotes an active and deliberate choice that is made on the part of the individual.

How is it that the Thessalonians were indeed one of the most important Treasures of Paul’s life? How is it that God’s people can be viewed by us as the most valuable Treasures on this Earth? The answer is that you, me, every believer must make a determination of the value we are going to place on the people of God and then live according to that valuation. That’s the Appraisal required by all in Christ!

You say, “But I don’t like God’s people!” Listen to Mt. 6:19-20a...

***Point:** When it comes to that which makes God’s People one of our most important treasures on this earth, we look to the mind and *the Appraisal* that is assessed based upon the teaching of Scripture! Because God’s people are (1) Our Lord’s inheritance and (2) something Jesus Himself has NOT given up on, we make the daily choice likewise so to live!

C. Its Compulsion, vv. 17b-18a.

Introductory Words

Bereft

All the More Eager

I

...because this body was part and parcel of Paul’s greatest Treasure, Paul had an unquenchable Compulsion to see them in order to minister to them. In fact, being separated from them was like being orphaned!

Recall the history of Paul’s early involvement in this city...

1. The church in Thessalonica was founded when after ministering in Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and his companions arrived in Thessalonica (Acts 17:2-3a, 4)...
2. As wonderful as was this response, nevertheless it brought grave opposition from their fellow Jews which resulted in a city-wide riot. As such, Paul, Silas, and Timothy had to slip away by night (Acts 17:5-10a)...
3. Paul and his companions then came to Berea... and then to Athens... and then to Corinth.
4. Of the churches founded on Paul’s Second Missionary Journey, if any were going to flounder, from all

appearance it most certainly would have been the Thessalonians. We say this for three reasons...

- a. The city enjoyed the status of being a free city of Rome- as such there would have been great pressure for any and all in Thessalonica to remain loyal to Caesar. Remember (cf. Acts 17:7b)?...
- b. The Jewish leadership in Thessalonica had a hatred for Paul and so a jealousy to attack not only Paul, but any and all associated with him. Again, they chased Paul to Berea (*50 miles away!!!*)!
- c. Finally, at this time in the ancient world there were many “pleaders for a cause”- men who travelled around teaching strange ideas and living off their disciples. They were viewed as unprincipled men. Would the Thessalonians view him as such?

...accordingly, Paul in Athens could only imagine what this young church in Thessalonica was going through. Would they endure? Would they remain true to Paul? Would they remain loyal to the Lord?

***Point:** this is what happens when you make people your greatest treasure! You want to see them... be with them- NOT simply to socialize, BUT to encourage them and so grow them in the faith! This is what ministry... fellowship is all about!

D. Its Opposition, v. 18b.

Satan is alive and well! From the very beginning he was there attacking God and His people (cf. Gen. 3:15a; Rev. 12:13; 1 Pet. 5:8b)...

...from this we see that the special object of Satan’s attack is the body of Christ. He will do anything to prevent a church from growing!

And so we read of Paul longing to minister to the Thessalonians, yet Satan opposing both him and the Thessalonians at any and all turns...

Thwart (ἐγκόπτω [*egkoptō*])

Paul- 1 Thes. 2:18

The Thessalonians- 1 Thes. 3:5b

***Point:** And so while God’s Kingdom Treasures is that which ought to be most precious to us in this life, these same treasures have and will remain the object of Satanic attack!

***Where We Live**

1. Do you understand what this means? If we as a church and a people endeavor to be faithful to the Lord, we will be attacked; there will be warfare!
 - a. The NT tells us that Satan was present in some of the most important churches at the time of Paul: Jerusalem (Acts 5:1–10), Corinth (2 Cor. 2:1–11), Ephesus (1 Tim. 3:6–7), Smyrna (Rev. 2:9–10), Pergamum (Rev. 2:13), Thyatira (Rev. 2:24), Philadelphia (Rev. 3:9).
 - b. We know that the focus of his attack- among other things- was and will be...
 1. Our faith- specifically in regard to the goodness of God (Mt. 4:3) or His provisions (Mt. 4:6).
 2. Our worship (Mt. 4:8-9).
 3. Our profession of truth (2 Cor. 11:3-5; Jn. 8:44; Eph. 6:11).
 4. The Unity of the Body of Christ (2 Cor. 2:11).
 5. Our Purity (Jam. 4:7-8).
2. This and much more constitutes the battle line- the front! Accordingly, (a) Guard your heart lest you fall on account of Satan devices. But also, (b) Protect and guard the Kingdom Treasure entrusted to us in the form of the people of God in your life- this church! Be a watchman on behalf of your brothers and sisters in the lord. If there is going to be compromise, it will undoubtedly involve these areas!