

“Walk Worthy Of God!”
1 Thessalonians 2:12-16

Introduction:

1. As We Return To 1 Thessalonians This Morning, We Remember How Paul Had Served This Young Church!
 - He “Imparted” Unto Them His “Own Soul!” (2:8)
 - Because Of Their Need!
 - Because He Had The Solution!
2. But, What Was The Point Of All Of Paul’s Labor & Service?
 - We See His Aim Again In 2:12 - “That ye would walk worthy of God!”
 - This Was Paul’s Desire & Goal For Each Christian In Thessalonica! The Purpose Of His Service!
 - For Them To Live Their Lives Completely & Entirely In A Way That Was Worthy Of The God Who Saved Them!
 - “Worthy” - Means Weighty / Valuable!
 - **IE:** When A Boy Named Mel Fisher Read The Book: “Treasure Island,” He Got The Treasure Bug! After Learning How To Scuba Dive When He Served In World War 2, He Started Dreaming About Diving For Treasure! Beginning In 1971, He Began Searching For The Famous Spanish Galleon, The Atocha, Which Was A Ship Laden With Treasure – Gold & Silver & Precious Stones! For 14 Long Years, Through Disappointment & Even Tragedy (4 Lives Were Lost), He Kept Searching! Famous Phrase: “Today’s The Day!” July 20, 1985 Turned Out To Be The Day! Mel Found The Mother Lode – A Treasure That Was So Large & Valuable, It Could Only Be Measured By Weight! Took Out The Scales – 40 Tons Of Gold & Silver! Nearly ½ Billion Dollars! For Mel Fisher, This Treasure Was So Valuable, It Was Worth All The Time, All The Effort, All The Disappointment – It Was Worth His Life!
 - But God Is Far More / Infinitely Valuable - How Can Anyone “Walk Worthy” Of Him?
 - The Fact Is, You Can’t! Noone Can! Until You Respond To The Gospel Of Jesus Christ! Then, And Only Then, Is It Even Possible To Live A Life That Is Pleasing To & Worthy Of God, Through The Holy Spirit!
3. Paul Taught The Thessalonian Christians, That They Could Walk Worthy Of God!
 - By Valuing The Treasures Of God & Living For Him!
 - And, In 2:13-16, Paul Reveals Some Of Those Treasures & How We Should Value Them!
 - Read Text!
 - When You Value The Treasures Of God, You Value The Treasure Of God! The Thessalonians Did – We Must Too!
4. How Can You Walk Worthy Of God?
 1. ***By Valuing The Treasure Of His Truth!***
 - 2:13 - “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe!”
 - One Of God’s Great Treasures Is His Truth!
 - Found In His Word!
 - Do You Value God’s Truth?
 - Seen In Your Reception Of The Truth!
 - The Thessalonians Received – Put Themselves Where They Could Hear – “The Word Of God” When Paul Brought It To Them & Preached It To Them!
 - There Was An Interest In / Eagerness For It!
 - The Word “About” God! The Truth!
 - How Do You Receive The Truth?
 - Interest In It / Eagerness For It / In Your Reading & Listening?
 - Only When You Receive It This Way, Do You Truly Value The Treasure Of God’s Truth!
 - Seen In Your Reaction To The Truth!
 - The Thessalonians Embraced “The Word Of God!”

- To Them It Wasn't Merely The Philosophy / Opinions / Desires Of Man!
- To Them, God Opened Their Eyes To See That It Was In Truth The "Word Of His Lips!" (Psalm 17:4)
- It Affected Their Heart & Not Just Their Mind!
- How Do You React To The Truth?
 - Take It As The Words Of Men?
 - Embrace It As The Word Of God?
- Only When You React To It This Way, Do You Truly Value The Treasure Of God's Truth!
- Seen In Your Restoration By The Truth!
 - The Thessalonians Believed "The Word Of God!"
 - And The Power Of God's Word Was Released In Their Lives! It Changed Them! It Transformed Them! It Empowered Them!
 - "Effectually Worketh" - Energeo - Energize!
 - Is There A Restoration / Change By The Truth?
 - Only When You Believe God's Word & Apply It!
 - **IE:** Only If I Believe A Medication Will Work, Will I Take It!
 - Only When You Believe It In This Way, Will You Truly Value The Treasure Of God's Truth!
- Only When You Begin To Value His Truth, Will You Walk Worthy Of God! Will Today Be The Day You Find This Treasure?

* How Can You Walk Worthy Of God?

2. *By Valuing The Treasure Of His Church!*

- 2:14a - "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus!"
 - Another One Of God's Great Treasures Is His Church!
 - Ephesians 5:25 - "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it!"
 - Do You Value God's Church?
- The Value Of Your Common Fellowship!
 - "Brethren!" - The Same Family!
 - Your Faith In God's Word / The Gospel Is What You Have In Common With Other Christians Throughout The World! You Have A Special Relationship! You Are Part Of A Special Family!
 - Do You Value The Fellowship Of The Church?
- The Value Of Your Common Function!
 - "Followers" - Mimeitai - Mimic!
 - Not Just The Same Family / The Same Function!
 - Following The Churches That Are Following Christ! Here, Following In The Experience Of Suffering!
 - But It Shows That You Are Not Alone!
 - When The Lord Found His Prophet Elijah Down & Discouraged In A Cave, He Asked Him: "What doest thou here, Elijah? / And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. / Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him!" (1 Kings 19:9-10, 18)
 - Do You Value The Function Of The Church?
- The Value Of Your Common Foundation!
 - "In Christ Jesus!"
 - Ephesians 2:20 - "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone!"
 - He Is The Common Bond For Every Christian!
 - No Matter What Differences There Are Between You, Your Position Together Is "In Christ Jesus!"
 - Race / Nationality / Distance! See 1:1!
 - Do You Value The Foundation Of The Church?

- Then You Will Walk In Fellowship With His Church!
- Only When You Begin To Value His Church, Will You Walk Worthy Of God! Will Today Be The Day You Discover This Treasure?

* How Can You Walk Worthy Of God?

3. By Valuing The Treasure Of His Suffering!

- 2:14b-16 - "For ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: / Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: / Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost!"
 - Surprisingly, Another One Of God's Great Treasures Is Suffering!
 - The Bible Speaks A Lot About Suffering!
 - 2 Timothy 2:2 - "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him!"
 - Do You Value The Lord's Suffering?
- Value Your Heritage Of Suffering!
 - Those Who Persecute Christians, Are Not Against You Personally! They Are Against:
 - The Gift Of God! "The Lord Jesus!"
 - The Grace Of God! "Their Own Prophets!"
 - The Ones Who Brought The Word Of God & His Warnings!
 - The Gospel Of God! "And Have Persecuted Us!"
 - When You Value Your Heritage Of Suffering, There Is No Reason To Be Ashamed!
 - Because It Is "Jesus Whom [They] Persecutest!" (Acts 26:15) - Paul!
 - This Is Why When The Apostles Were Beaten In Jerusalem, They "[Rejoiced] that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name!" (Acts 5:41)
- Value The Hindrance To Suffering! (2:16)
 - Suffering Does Have An End!
 - It Will End, Because The Cup Of Their Sins Has Overflowed!
 - With Every Injury Or Murder Of A Prophet, A Little Fuller! At Christ, It Was Full! At The Apostles, It Overflowed! The Lord Has Had Enough! Their End Will Come! So Will Our Suffering!
 - No Reason To Be Afraid!
 - Suffering "Is Not A Sign That God Has Forgotten His People, But A Sign That He Is With Them!" (Denney)
- Only When You Begin To Value His Suffering, Will You Walk Worthy Of God! Will Today Be The Day You Uncover This Treasure?

Conclusion:

1. The Treasures Of God Are More Valuable Than Any Treasure Beneath The Oceans' Waters! Or On The Shelves Of Stores! (Bargain Hunting!)
 - The Treasure Of His Truth!
 - The Treasure Of His Church!
 - The Treasure Of His Suffering!
2. Only When We Truly Value God's Treasures & Live That Way, Will We "Walk Worthy Of God!"
 - We Need To Get The Treasure Bug!
 - But These Treasures Of God Are Not Hidden!
 - When You, Like Mel Fisher, Believe These Treasures Are So Valuable, It Will Be Worth Your Life To "Walk Worthy Of God!"

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