

## "To Obtain Glory"

2 Thessalonians 2: 6-8

April 13, 2014

### III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

God Has Chosen Us To Obtain By Divine Union, The Glory Of Christ & Stand Firm, (vs. 14 - 15)

**Message Emphasis:** The believer is called, by the work of the Gospel, to participate in the glory of Christ their Lord as they are united with Him. As a direct result, we are to be unmovable in the things we have been taught; assuming they are for Christ's glory.

*Paul encourage... Christians... to strive for the future prize that awaited them, namely, the "culmination or consummation of salvation" ... The apostle used specific Greek words to draw a picture in the minds of his readers of an athlete who is participating in a running contest. Just as sprinters exert all of their efforts to push forward and reach the finish line, so Paul used every effort to drive himself forward in becoming more conformed to Christ's glorious image. The great difference between races in a sporting event and the race Christians are running in is that a sporting event has only one winner. In the case of the Christian life, all who finish the race win... Paul's utmost effort to win the prize was not to run faster or longer than all other Christians, but to reach a common "eschatological goal" Expressed differently, the apostle was not trying to excel above all other believers, but to win a prize that Jesus will award to all who run for Him ~~ Dan Lioy*

#### 1) The Believer's Union With Christ Is ONLY Through The Gospel, (vs. 14a)

*What is the real result of the Gospel?*

<sup>14</sup> **To this he called** (Aor.Act.Ind) **you through our gospel** - "And we know that for <sup>1</sup> those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are <sup>2</sup> called according to his purpose. For those whom <sup>3</sup> he foreknew he also <sup>4</sup> predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom <sup>5</sup> he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." (Romans 8:28-30, ESV)

##### 1. Unified with Christ is a love relationship - **love** (Pres.Act.Part)

*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, ESV)*

#### 2) The Believer's Union With Christ Is ONLY For His Glory; A Glory Bestowed To The Believer, (vs. 14b) so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

##### 2. Unified with Christ is for Christ's glory - **are** (Pres.Act.Part - lit. possess certain qualities, 2x)

##### 3. Unified with Christ is by God's divine activity - **to be** (Pres.Act.Inf. - lit. possess certain qualities)

##### 4. Unified with Christ is for conformity unto His image - "What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory - " (Romans 9:22-23, ESV)

#### 3) The Believer's Union With Christ Is ONLY For A Specific Outcome; Immovable Faith, (vs. 15a)

<sup>15</sup> **So then, brothers, stand** (Pres.Act.Impv) **firm**

##### 5. Unified with Christ requires a new nature in the believer      One of justification      of glorification

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16:13, ESV)*

#### 4) The Believer's Union With Christ Is ONLY Found In One Place; The Cannon Of God's Word, (vs. 15b)

**and hold** (Pres.Act.Impv) **to the traditions that you were taught** (Aor.Pas.Ind) **by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.**

*"Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen." (Romans 16:25-27, ESV)*

**\*\*\*What Must I Do To Be Saved?\*\*\***

**Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ can truly realize the blessed glory of the union with Christ.

God Has Chosen Us To Receive Divine Comfort & Be Established In Every Good Work, (vs. 16 - 17)

D. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)