

"This We Declare"

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

April 14, 2013

God Has Predestined His Children Not To Wrath But For Salvation Through Jesus Christ, (vs. 5: 9)

- II We must pay much closer attention to how we put into practice what we say we believe, (vs. 4: 1 – 5: 28)
- B. The revelation of God requires that His children be informed about the reality of the last day, (vs. 4: 13 – 5: 11)

9. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Protects The Child Of God From Surprise, (vs. 4)

4.1) To Believe Is To See Darkness For What It Is

"Not IN (ἐν σκοτει) Darkness"-

"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." (Romans 13:8-14, ESV)

4.2) To Believe Is To See God's People For What They Are

"Brothers"-

"...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:5-12, ESV)

4.3) To Believe Is To See God's Word For What It Is

"The Day Surprise (Aor.Act.Subj) You Like A Thief"-

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son," (Colossians 1:9-13, ESV)

1) "Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 2) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 3) Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 4) Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 5) But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." (1 John 2:7-11, ESV)

- 1) God has given His people all they need to not be surprised & overwhelmed.
- 2) God has brought all His ordained plans into fruition in Christ our Lord.
- 3) The reality of faith is that we do not have the right to say one thing and do the opposite.
- 4) When we live as God has directed, we experience unity & peace in a divisive & aggressive world.
- 5) When we live outside the fellowship of God's people & word, deception overwhelms us.

How are you overwhelmed because you have chosen to walk outside the fellowship of God's Church & word?

10. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Is An Ontological Matter Not Just Theological, (vs. 5)
11. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Must Make Distinctions Between Persons, (vs. 6-7)
12. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Is Not Escapism But Marching Orders, (vs. 8)
13. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Mandates The Active Declaration Of The Gospel, (vs. 9)
14. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Does Not Focus On The Timing Of The Day, (vs. 10)
15. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Focuses On The Building Of Christ's Church More & More, (vs. 11)

C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 – 28)

- III We must pay much closer attention to why we must live with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)
- A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 – 12)
 - B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 – 17)
 - C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 – 18)