

“For Not All Have Faith”

2 Thessalonians 3: 1 - 18

May 11, 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 Called His People To Pray For Divine Deliverance & The Expansion Of The Gospel, (vs. 3: 1 - 2)

Message Emphasis: The believer is called, by the work of the Gospel, to put their trust in God’s protection as they are actively engaged in promoting the Kingdom of Christ. Many today desire God’s protection but in the activities that they, themselves choose. We must see that God does promise to protect and care for His children but also calls us to be obedient to the work He has set before us.

The accounts from Thessalonica... represented the faith and love of the Christians there as on the increase; and their constancy amidst persecutions unshaken. One error of doctrine, however, resulting in practical evil, had sprung up among them. The apostle’s description of Christ’s sudden second coming and the possibility of its being at any time, led them to believe it was actually at hand. Some professed to know by “the Spirit” that it was so; and others alleged that Paul had said so when with them. A letter, too, purporting to be from the apostle to that effect, seems to have been circulated among them... [prompting] his autograph salutation [as] being the mark whereby his genuine letters might be known. Hence some neglected their daily business and threw themselves on the charity of others, as if their sole duty was to wait for the coming of the Lord. This error, therefore, needed rectifying... He in it tells them... that the Lord’s sudden coming is no ground for neglecting daily business; that to do so would only bring scandal on the Church,... and that the faithful must withdraw themselves from such disorderly professors. ~ Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown

1) The Divine Call For Prayer Is Issued For The Work Of The Gospel 1st & Primarily, (vs. 1a)

- Prayer for God’s intervention is not optional *Not “Am I praying?” but what am I praying for?*
Finally, brothers, pray (Pres.Act.Impv) **for us**, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”” (Matthew 9:36-38, ESV)
- Prayer must be primarily for the work of the Gospel *What does your prayer list tell you about your priorities?*
that the word of the Lord may speed (Pres.Act.Sub) **ahead and be honored** (Pres.Pas.Sub)

O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master, The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung; Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster, And praise is natural speech to ev'ry tongue; Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster, And Christ sufficient is for old and young.

2) The Divine Call For The Work Of The Gospel Is Not Without Its Material Evidence, (vs. 1b)

- There is a remembrance & testimony of God’s work *How is your own testimony affecting your motivations?*
as happened among you,
“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14, ESV)

3) The Divine Call For God’s Protection Must Be Seen As The Secondary Focus As The Gospel Is Preached, (vs. 2)

- The work of the Gospel brings us into close quarters – *What is your response to opposition in the Gospel?*
and that we may be delivered (Aor.Pas.Subj) **from wicked and evil men.**

I am resolved to enter the kingdom Leaving the paths of sin; Friends may oppose me, foes may beset me, Still will I enter in.

- Some don’t have & some never will have faith *How does “faithlessness” change my opinion?*
For not all have faith.
“For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.” (Matthew 13:15, ESV)

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

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ will you find protection for the work at hand.

2. God Has Called His People To Rely On His Faithfulness To Guard Them Against The Evil One, (vs. 3 - 5)
3. God Has Called His People To Work & Refrain From Idleness Which Is Worldly, (vs. 6 - 8)
4. God Has Called His People To Serve As An Example Of True Godliness In Very Simple Ways, (vs. 9 - 12)
5. God Has Called His People To Preserve The Holiness Of Their Testimony, (vs. 13 - 15)
6. God Has Called His People To Trust In The Teachings Handed Down By His Messengers, (vs. 16 - 18)