

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

May 17, 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

God is Omniscient

1 Kings 8:37-40: "If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight *or* mildew, locust *or* grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, whatever prayer or supplication is made by any man *or* by all Thy people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house; then hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart Thou knowest, for Thou alone dost know the hearts of all the sons of men, that they may fear Thee all the days that they live in the land which Thou hast given to our fathers."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 139:14

+We Adore Him

Hymn #164, "O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"

We Confess Our Sin

O, Holy Father, we are unclean. We are not worthy to enter into Your presence. We have willfully broken Your commandments. At times, we even have enjoyed our rebellion. Shame and sorrow have been our bedfellows. We lament our sinning heart.

However, looking upon Your grace, we honestly repent, and earnestly beg your mercy. Remember Jesus Christ and His work on the cross for us; and based on His substitutionary life and death, forgive all our sins. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #53, "Praise To The Lord"

Based on Psalm 103

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Ps. 139:7-10

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #108, "Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship Ps. 139:17-18

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #644, "May The Mind Of Christ My Savior"

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.

A Cross-Section of a Healthy Church, Pt. 2

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Study Notes for May 17, 2015

I. Introduction

A Reorganized Dead Church

Review

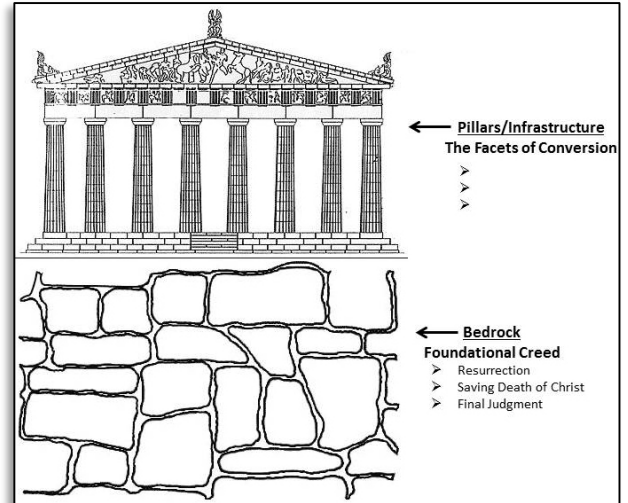
II. A Cross-Section of a Healthy Church, 1 Thes. 1:2-10.

A. Its Foundational Creed, vv. 10b-c.

B. The Facets of its Conversion, vv. 9-10a.

1. Repentance and Faith, v. 9a.

The first characteristic of the Thessalonians' conversion is twofold: "repentance" and "faith"- turning and trusting!



In terms of the TURNING, notice that it had two facets to it...

1. **The Apparent Turning, 1 Thes. 1:9.**

For the Thessalonian believers to have made such a radical break from their idolatry was a testimony of the power and transforming grace of the gospel!

2. **The Real Turning, Rom. 1:21-23.**

"Professing to be wise, they became fools"- this is the stated cause for the non-believer's rebellion against God! Would you notice? It has nothing to do with a perceived flaw in God or the superiority of another religion. It has everything to do with themselves, their pride, and their desire to be independent from God!

...the doctrine of repentance has at its most basic level a turning from ones independency from God- from self-trust, self-rule, self-love... SELF (Lk. 18:13, 9a; Mt. 5:3-4; Lk. 9:23)...

In terms of TRUSTING, the Thessalonians' conversion also involved a turning to God (v. 9a)...

The "faith" part of "repentance and faith" is relying upon Christ's sacrifice for your sin. Think of the OT sacrificial system...

...the act of laying one's hands on the head of the lamb is the idea of saving faith in Scripture. It is relying upon Christ as the payment for one's sin!

***Point**

1. The first element to the Thessalonians "reception" of the gospel was repentance and faith! And this you must see is the confession and so the way of every individual in a healthy church!
2. In contrast, unhealthy churches are filled with self-sufficient, proud "saints" who do not struggle with sin and so typically look down upon those who do (cf. Lk. 18:11-12; Gal. 5:15)...

2. Purpose, v. 9b.

This and its many forms in the Greek (*doúlos, sýndoulos, doúlē, douleía*) all have to do with slavery!

Slavery in Greece

Slavery in the Bible (Rom. 1:1; Jer. 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:16; Gal. 4:7; Rom. 6:18, 19b; Lk. 17:10)...

*Point

1. That is the radical shift that occurs when a person enters into a saving relationship with Christ. They understand that their life no longer is about them! They exist for the purpose and pleasure of God!
2. A Healthy Church is filled with men and women who understand that they are redeemed slaves purchased for the glory, honor, and purpose of the Lord! Having gone on a spiritual death-march to self and now actively living in reliance upon God, they live for the Lord!

3. A Set Disposition, v. 10a.

This reflects a radical transformation when it comes to the believer's disposition- specifically that for which they are living!

Non-believers live for various and sundry things...

Do you know what healthy Christians live for? Since we are servants, perhaps you think it is to please the Lord in all that we do? While there is an element to this that is true, it is much bigger than that! What do healthy Christians live for? The NT provides a unified answer to that question...

1 Pet. 1:3

Rom. 8:24

Rom. 12:12

Rom. 15:4

Eph. 4:4

Col. 1:23

Heb. 6:18b-19

1 Pet. 3:15

...what is this hope? What is THE disposition that characterizes each and every child of God and so a healthy Church?

Tit. 2:11-13

Col. 1:27

1 Thes. 1:10a

Gordon Fee wrote, "The end result of such conversion was a new orientation, an eschatological one, wherein they were now waiting for the final consummation." (*The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians*, NICNT, p. 51)

Why is that? How is it that the Second Coming of Christ could have such an impact on our lives? Because of what is going to happen when Christ returns- specifically (1) the Realization of His Kingdom, (2) our being conformed to Christ's image, (3) the creation of the New Heavens and Earth, (4) the glorious calling of Co-Reigning with God over Creation, and much, much more (cf. Eph. 1:18; Gal. 5:5; 1 Thes. 2:19; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:13)...

*Point: This is why Christ's Second Coming is THE passion and focus of the believer. We know this world is not our home! Accordingly, a Healthy Church lives with a longing for and an eye fixed on the final state! Truly, it has an eschatological orientation about them!