

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

May 8, 2016

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 Holy

Psalm 145:17-21: "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and kind in all His deeds. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. The Lord keeps all who love Him; but all the wicked, He will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord; and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 99:1-3

+We Adore Him

Hymn #100, "Holy, Holy, Holy"

We Confess Our Sin

Lord God! Eternal and Almighty Father: we acknowledge and confess before Your holy majesty that we are poor sinners. We were conceived and born in guilt and corruption, prone to do evil, unable of ourselves to do any good, transgressing without end Your holy commandments. Therefore we have drawn upon ourselves, by Your just sentence, condemnation and death. But, O Lord! With heartfelt sorrow we repent and deplore our sins, and beg that Your grace may relieve our distress.

Be pleased, then, to have compassion upon us, O God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. And in removing our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of Your Holy Spirit; that acknowledging from our inmost hearts our own unrighteousness, we may repent and by Your Spirit, put sin to death within us. So may You produce the fruits of holiness, righteousness, faith, and peace- through Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #80, "Lord, With Glowing Heart"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Ps. 99:6

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #629, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 99:7

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #298, "The Head That Once Was Crowned"

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.

Excellence in the Ministry, Pt. 4

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Study Notes for May 8, 2016

I. Introduction: Immorality No Big Deal (1 Cor. 6:13)?!

II. Excellence in the Ministry, 1 Thes. 4:1-12.

A. As it Relates to God: Devotion, vv. 1-8.

1. The Foundation, vv. 1-2.
2. The Calling, v. 3.
3. The Tools in our Devotion, vv. 4-6a.

4. The Motive When it Comes to our Devotion, vv. 6b-8.

a. The Cost of this Sin, v. 6b.

1. A Shocking Statement

Paul here is NOT threatening the believer!

Yet we must understand, God is the Avenger (Heb. 4:13; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jer. 17:10)

2. “Avenge” Defined

The word for “avenger” is ἔκδικος (*ekdikos*) which speaks of exacting punishment in direct proportion to the crime committed. That is what awaits this world in the last day! Recall Rom. 2:11-12 and Lk. 12:47-48...

...such will be the case with every man, woman, and child who die without Christ. Indeed, “the Lord is the avenger!” Yet that is NOT specific enough. We must realize that any corrupting of the man/woman relationship- regardless of how sinful man might present it (*it is a beautiful relationship between two consenting adults who love each other*) will be avenged by the Lord! That is the focus of our text...

3. “Avenge” Against the Backdrop of God’s Grace

So yes, we must take this passage with the full-force with which God intended here. Sexual immorality is a serious sin which will receive from the Lord horrible, exacting punishment both in time and in eternity! Yet if we are in Christ, we must also take this passage as one for whom “there is no condemnation” (Rom. 8:1)! By the grace of God, the ultimate judgment Paul mentions here does NOT have reference to the child of God! It can’t!

Why then is Paul making this point to a group of saved individuals? To stress the sobriety and seriousness of this sin!

b. The Intent Behind God’s Call, v. 7.

1. This speaks of the end/telos when it comes to our salvation (cf. 1 Thes. 4:3)!

...with this, it is important to note that this NOT ONLY is God’s will for us, BUT that to which we have

been “called” (cf. 1 Thes. 2:12)!

2. “Sanctification” Defined

Recall that the word for “sanctification” in the Greek is ἁγιασμός (*hagiasmos*) which is used in the LXX to translate the Hebrew **קִדְשׁ** (*qedesh*). This is a major word in the OT referencing *anything that is different on account of its association with God...*

What practically does this mean? It speaks of a behavior dictated by one’s position. We “are to be holy in all [our] behavior”! Why? Because God is holy, He has claimed us for Himself, and He has called us to nothing less!

Kittel wrote, “The old Greek term hágos denotes an object of awe, the adjective hagḗs means ‘clean,’ and the verb házō has the sense ‘to shrink from.’” (*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, pp. 14–15)

On a practical note, what happens when things in this life are NOT used according to the purpose for which they have been made (cf. 1 Tim. 5:6)?

c. That which is Forsaken when Sin is Chosen, v. 8.

1. Paul’s Own Opinion!?

2. That which is Forsaken!

Do you understand the choice you are making when you engage in sexual immorality? You are choosing to reject NOT a way of living, BUT the Person of God Himself- specifically the Spirit of God who is Holy (Paul uses magisterial language here to emphasize this fact. Literally, “the Spirit of Him, the holy!”)! This is a big deal! Recall the words of Christ in the upper room (Jn. 16:5-7; cf. also 1 Thes. 1:6)...

Recall the words of John Piper, “The challenge before us in our fight against lust is not merely to do what God says because he is God, but to desire what God says because He is glorious. The challenge is not merely to *pursue* righteousness, but to *prefer* righteousness... At first, lust begins to trick me into feeling that I would really miss out on some great satisfaction if I followed the path of purity. But then I take up the sword of the Spirit and begin to fight. I read that it is better to gouge out my eye than to lust. I read that if I think about things that are pure and lovely and excellent, the peace of God will be with me (Philippians 4:8). I read that setting the mind on the flesh brings death, but setting the mind on the Spirit brings life and peace (Romans 8:6). I read that lust wages war against my soul (1 Peter 2: 11), and that the pleasures of this life choke out the life of the Spirit (Luke 8:14). But best of all, I read that God withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11), and that the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8).” (*Future Grace*, Revised Edition, chapter 27, Kindle Edition)