

# WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

June 21, 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!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

God is Compassionate

Jonah 4:9-11: "Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death." 10 Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work, and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. 11 "And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 145:8-10

+We Adore Him

Hymn #6, "O Come, My Soul"

*from Psalm 103*

We Confess Our Sin

Psalm 51:1-12

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when Thou dost judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Thy presence,

and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #646, "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication**

Jonah 2:8-9

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #681, "How Gentle God's Commands"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Heb. 4:12

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #708, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

**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. 5

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Study Notes for June 21, 2015

### I. Introduction

Underwhelmed by Great Delivery

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

- Its Foundational Creed, vv. 10b-c.
- The Facets of its Conversion, vv. 9-10a.
- The External Consequences, vv. 2, 7-8.
- The Cause: Why this Church did What it Did, vv. 4-6.

### E. The Characteristics of its Ministry, v. 3a.

#### 1. A Life-Encompassing Service

The word for “work” in this passage is ἔργον (*ergon*). It is THE most common word used in the Bible for any and every activity. As such, it is used in relation to all kinds of “work”...

In the Jewish as well as Greek world in which the Thessalonians lived, all of this would largely have been viewed as unimportant, insignificant, as well as evil...

The Gnostics of the 3rd Century found their beginning in this worldview

**What did Christ do to this thinking?** What happened when the Thessalonians “turned from their idols to serve the living God”? Their concept of life was completely transformed such that now ALL OF LIFE was viewed as sacred (cf. 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:23; Rom. 12:1; 1 Thes. 1:3)!...

**\*Point:** Christ radically transformed the daily living of the Thessalonians such that all that they now did, they did driven NOT by a passion to acquire things or secure an easy life, BUT out of reliance upon God- Faith! Their faith in Christ transformed their thinking such that in everything they did, they were driven by a passion to please the Lord!

#### Toward a Changed Life

- As a church, we have lost this mindset...

#### *The Tearing of the Temple Curtain*

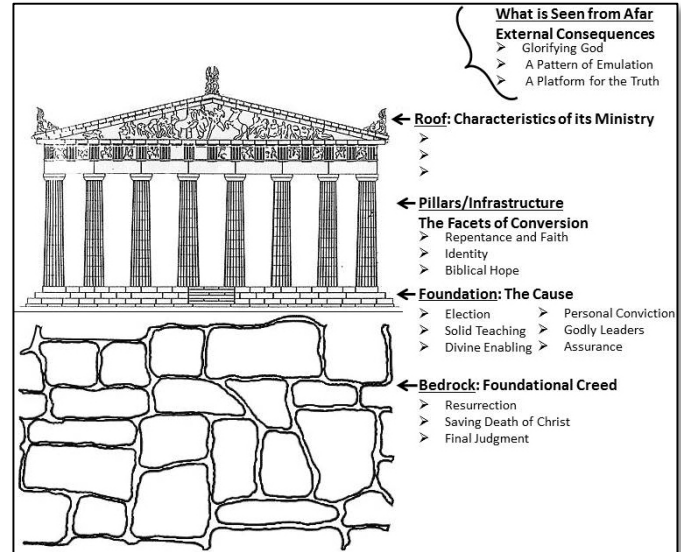
- Truly we must ever and always be reminded that everything we do is as an act of worship and so service of King Jesus. As such, it is done as the overflow of faith (Heb. 11:6)!

### 2. Kingdom-Striving unto Exhaustion

The word for “labor” is κόπος (*kopos*) which has a very specific nuance in the Bible. In secular Gk. κόπος refers either to a “beating” or the “weariness” that results from a severe beating. It is a negative word in antiquity...

...this connotation continued into the NT. As such, this word denotes not just “service,” but brutal service-service to the point of exhaustion!

With salvation, the word took on a distinct element in the NT- early on it was the first term used to refer to kingdom service (later on, such words as δουλεύω [*douleuō*] and λειτουργέω [*leitourgeō*] would be added)! Now get this: It still was synonymous with strenuous, difficult labor (that which might lead a person to fainting), but now in the church it had particular reference to kingdom related activity. And so in the Bible, κόπος is used in reference to...



Consider the thinking of Martin Luther in this regard, “Alas! Must I walk the baby, wash its diapers, make its bed, smell its stench, stay up nights with it, take care of it when it cries, heal its rashes and soars? And on top of that care for my spouse, provide, labor at my trade, take care of this, and take care of that? Do this and do that, endure this and endure that, and whatever else of bitterness and drudgery married life involves? Why should I make such a prisoner of myself? ¶ What then does Christian faith say to this? It opens its eyes, looks upon all these insignificant, distasteful, and despised duties in the Spirit; and is aware that they are all adorned with divine approval as with the costliest golden jewels. It says, ‘O God! I confess today that I am not worthy to rock the little babe or wash its diapers or to be entrusted with the care of the child and its mother. How is it that I without any merit have come to this distinction of being certain that I am serving Thy creature and Thy most precious will. Oh how gladly will I do so though the duty should be even more insignificant and despised. Neither frost nor heat, neither drudgery nor labor will distress and dissuade me, for I am certain that it is thus pleasing in Thy sight.’”

...so we are talking here about distinctive Christian activities: worship, body life, Bible study, serving, bearing one another's burden, teaching, discipling, preaching, and the like.

**\*Note:** It is noteworthy that the negative connotation housed in this word remains. These activities- though they are for the glory and service of God and the benefit of the believer- nevertheless are still accompanied by drudgery, trial, exhaustion, difficulty, hardship, and much more (cf. 2 Cor. 11:23ff)...

MacArthur wrote, "Unlike *ergon* (work), which focuses on the deed itself, *kopos* looks at the effort expended in accomplishing a particular deed. It is an effort that strains all of one's energies to the maximum level." (*1 & 2 Thessalonians*, MNTC, p. 17)

...that is the nature of ministry in the Kingdom of God. It will involve great effort which often will not be appreciated by those who receive it. In fact, so much is this the case the genuine servant of the Lord at times may be tempted to draw back (cf. Is. 49:4a; Jer. 20:8-9)...

...this was part and parcel of the Thessalonians' experience! They turned to God from idols with the heart and passion to do nothing else but serve the Lord. And what did they get in return? Brutal attacks (cf. 1 thes. 2:14-15; 3:4)!

**So why didn't the Thessalonians shrink back?** Why did they continue on with a zeal and passion worthy of our emulation? Notice the text...

**\*Point:** So... give up on Christ's calling? Abandon the church He loves? Forsake the ministry to which He has called you? May it never be! The people we minister to are not worthy... but God is!

### 3. Courageous Endurance

The word for "steadfastness" is *ὑπομονή* (*hupomonē*) which means "to stay behind," "to stay alive," "to stand firm," and so ultimately "endure." In contrast to the word for "patience" in the Bible, *ὑπομονή* refers to a courageous endurance or standing! It is NOT the resignation of the passive sufferer; RATHER it is the fortitude of the stout-hearted soldier!

Think of Thermopylae (480 BC)

...that is the idea in this verse. Yet there is more. For added to this word in the Bible are two significant elements. "Steadfastness" involves...

1. Standing in Reliance upon God- and so waiting upon Him and therefore clinging to Him (Ps. 27:14)...
2. Standing against the World (Mk. 13:13; Mt. 10:22; 1 Pet. 2:20; cf. Jam. 4:4).

According to F. Hauck, "...there predominates in *ὑπομένειν* the concept of the **courageous endurance** which manfully defies evil." (TDNT, Vol. 4, emphasis mine, pp. 581-582)

...this was the Thessalonians! What we read in this epistle was NOT a snapshot of the Thessalonians' fidelity; rather it is how they lived (cf. 2 Thes. 1:4)!

**\*Note:** Christian, we need to hear this! We tend to focus on the *beginning* of the race- and so love hearing about how people were saved. Yet what is most glorious in Scripture is NOT the beginning of the race, BUT the end (1 Cor. 9:24; 2 Tim. 4:7)...

**What is it that enabled the Thessalonians to hang in there** throughout their lifetime serving the Lord in horrible circumstances of suffering?

...when God saved the Thessalonians their values were radically altered such that they now lived for the coming Kingdom of Christ! We talked about this in detail when we looked at v. 10...

**\*Point:** How is it that the Thessalonians were impervious to the threats, attacks, and persecutions of this life? They were living for something beyond this world! They were looking for THE Kingdom whose Founder and Builder is God (cf. Hab. 2:3; 2 Pet. 3:11-12)! It was this that enabled them to Stand Firm in their faith not shrinking back!