

“Shaming To Restore”

2 Thessalonians 3: 1 - 18

June 1, 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 Preserve The Holiness Of Their Testimony, (vs. 13 - 15)

Message Emphasis: The believer is called, by the work of the Gospel, to labor for the kingdom of Christ. Many in our world today simply do not accept the necessity of this labor which if undertaken produces holiness. The “live & let live” attitude of the world is unfortunately “alive and well” within the church with very little confrontation of sin. We must accept that the Lord teaches us to openly shame those who do not follow His mandates and that it is to our own shame if we do not embrace this teaching.

Agag is holding out hope for a peaceful outcome, for he comes to Samuel “cautiously,” saying to himself, “surely the bitterness of death is past.” He seems to think the worst is behind him. However, Agag is seriously mistaken. When he comes before Samuel, the prophet addresses him in judgment, in effect pronouncing sentence upon him: “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” He then hacks him to pieces “before the LORD,” that is, in accordance with God’s wishes and for His glory.

But then Samuel, in effect, pronounces an even worse sentence on Saul—he leaves him. He simply goes back to his home in Ramah, while Saul goes to his hometown of Gibeah. And, we are told, “Samuel went no more to see Saul.” Their paths will cross... But Samuel never again will go to Saul with a word from the Lord. God has withdrawn from Saul, so there is no reason for Samuel to remain with him. Saul, therefore, is bereft of God’s counsel. Still, Samuel is filled with sadness that it has come to this, that the king of Israel, God’s regent, has rebelled against his master. He mourns that Saul’s heart is so far from God. And God, too, is grieved by Saul’s sin.

Samuel mourned for Saul but withdrew from him. Jesus lamented for Jerusalem but left it (Matt. 23:37-39). Likewise, there may be times when, as a last resort, it is best to disassociate from people over whose hardness of heart we weep. God can use such a hard measure to soften a hard heart and produce real repentance. ~~ Tabletalk Magazine

1) Holiness Takes A Lot Of Hard Work, (vs. 13)

Many will not accept this teaching because it is hard to do

- Labor is the mandate for our Lord’s Church

What does willful neglect of this truth say about your salvation?

As for you, brothers, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, ESV)

- Resistance can come in any form

Scripture does not give a “list;” every area of living is suspect

do not grow weary (Aor.Act.Subj) “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18, ESV)

- Submission is the believer’s nature

We can only accomplish this through Christ’s grace; so if I don’t want to ...?

in doing good (Pres.Act.Part) “For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:8-10, ESV)

2) Holiness Takes The Active Participation Of Those Around Us, (vs. 14)

Because we are not holy we will not help other be holy nor

receive their help in our holiness

- Holiness requires an outside perspective

Why am I unwilling to receive the loving help of others?

If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take (Pres.Mid.Impv) **note of that person,** “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people – not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler – not even to eat with such a one.” (1 Corinthians 5:9-11, ESV)

- Holiness requires an outside accountability

Are we so afraid of public shame that we are unwilling to help others avoid it?

and have nothing to do (Pres.Mid.Inf) **with him, that he may be ashamed** (Aor.Pas.Subj). “When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” (1 Corinthians 5:4-6, ESV)

3) Holiness Is The Mark Of Genuine Christian Love For Each Other, (vs. 15)

If we love one another why would we not be willing to

undertake the hard work of holiness?

Do not regard (Pres.Act.Impv) **him as an enemy, but warn** (Pres.Act.Impv) **him as a brother.** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35, ESV)

***What Must I Do To Be Assured Of Faith? ***

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ will you find the grace of our Lord to accept and bestow the means of holiness in your life and the lives of those around you.

6. God Has Called His People To Trust In The Teachings Handed Down By His Messengers, (vs. 16 - 18)