

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

July 19, 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 Immutable

Psalm 102:25-27: "Of old Thou didst found the earth; and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Heb. 10:24-25

+We Adore Him

Hymn #3, "Give To Our God Immortal Praise" *b. on Psalm 136*

We Confess Our Sin

O Eternal God, who alone has immortality, ever living in glory, unchanged, unchangeable, bend down Your ear to hear. We confess with shame past hours wasted, in unprofitable reading and other worldly entertainments. If future days are ours, guide us that no more time be squandered in vain pursuits. Impress on our minds the shortness of time, the work to be done, the account to be rendered, the nearness of eternity, and the misery of lamps expired when the voice of the Bridegroom is heard. May we never forget that Your eye always sees us; Your ear always hears us; Your recording hand commits all to a book of remembrance; all hidden works must be unveiled at the judgment day!

Above all things may we seek Your favor! May Christ be the pulse of our hearts. May He speak in every word of our lips. May He shine in every step of our earthly walk. Grant our requests, for His dear sake. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #32, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Heb. 7:1-3

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #531, "Savior, Blessed Savior"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Heb. 2:2-4

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #12, "Exalt The Lord"

Psalm 135:1-7, 21

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 an Effective Minister, *An Introduction*

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Study Notes for July 19, 2015

I. Introduction

II. A Cross-Section of an Effective Minister, *An Introduction*, 1 Thes. 2:1-12.

A. The General “Flavor” of Paul’s Ministry, v. 1a & Select.

This verse calls us back to the first chapter on a couple of points...

-for: γάρ (*gar*)

-our coming to you: εἰσοδος (*eisodos*)

...with these two references there is no question that this section is a continuation of the thought process begun in chapter 1. And so having examined “The Content” of the Thessalonians’ ministry, Paul now turns his focus to The Content of HIS Ministry...

Now looking at this text as a whole, we catch the primary “flavor” of Paul as a minister of Christ. So, what was it that Paul was about? What ought we to be about as servants of Christ? At least three things...

1. An Intimate Sharing of God’s Word, vv. 2, 3, 9.

Preaching, v. 9.

Preaching/Individually Teaching, v. 2.

Personal/Individual Care and Concern, v. 3.

2. Individual Discipleship, v. 11.

Notice Paul’s word choice here...

-exhorting: this is the same word used in v. 3, παρακαλέω (*parakaleō*). Again, we are dealing with an intimate, personal form of teaching.

-encouraging: is from the Greek, παραμυθέομαι (*paramutheomai*)- *para* meaning “with” and *muthos* meaning “counsel” or “advice.” The word means to encourage, cheer up, or stimulate to the discharge of the ordinary duties of life. It carries the idea of teaching over time... discipleship!

-imploring: μαρτύρομαι (*marturomai*); its strict meaning is to “summon as a witness,” to “affirm solemnly” and so “adjure.” The idea is that of accountability- holding a person accountable to a given standard.

...each of these imply a relationship of care and concern in which an individual is taught the word of God, encouraged to believe it/to stake one’s life on it, and then is held accountable to it over time. When the Thessalonians thought back upon Paul’s visit, this is what came to mind!

3. The Impartation of Life Itself, v. 8.

The word for “impart,” μεταδίδομι (*metadidōmi*), means to give a share, as distinct from generic giving. As we’ll see at some point, it carries the idea not only of the spending of ones resources (like money, etc...), but also of the doling out one’s life (which would involve ones time, health, etc...)!

***Point:** Such was the flavor of Paul’s ministry amongst the Thessalonians. He was about personal involvement in the lives of God’s people!

Where We Live

1. This places great emphasis on the priority of the word of God not only in our lives, but in the imparting of it to others (cf. Mt. 28:19; 2 Tim. 2:2 & 3)...
2. I hope you see one of the implications flowing from this! Clearly we must change the way we view personal Bible Study. It no longer can be exclusively about us or for us. Our study of God’s word must involve a

view toward building up/encouraging/establishing another in the body of Christ (cf. Ezra 7:10; Is. 50:4-5)!

B. The Impact of Paul's Ministry, v. 1b & Select.

-was: Paul utilized the perfect tense here to make an important point. Recall that the perfect tense references something that happened in the past, but whose impact/effect/consequence continues on into the present. The point is that the impact of Paul's ministry was and continues to be "not in vain."

-vain: κενός (*kenos*); this translates as "empty," "hollow," "useless," or "lacking in content." This could be taken to refer to one of two things: (1) the results of Paul's ministry at Thessalonica, or (2) Paul himself. The majority of Bible commentaries favor the latter- it is best taken in reference here to Paul himself. Let me give you the background...

1. "Ministers" in Paul's Day

The "Fullness of the Time" Used

The "Fullness of the Time" Abused

W. Neil wrote, "There has probably never been such a variety of religious cults and philosophic systems as in Paul's day... 'Holy Men' of all creeds and countries, popular philosophers, magicians, astrologers, crack-pots, and cranks; the sincere and the spurious, the righteous and the rogue, swindlers and saints, jostled and clamoured for the attention of the credulous and the skeptical." (Cited in Leon Morris, *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*, NICNT, p. 68, n. 3)

Acts 5:35-37

2 Jn. 7, 11

W. H. Franzmann: "Paul and his companions were not the only propagandists and pleaders for a cause that traveled the Roman roads in those days; they were part of a numerous and motley troop of philosophers, rhetoricians, propagandists for various foreign and domestic cults, missionaries, charlatans, and quacks who went from town to town, all intent on getting a hearing, all eager for money or fame or both. These usually came and went, never to be heard from again. Paul would in the popular mind be classified with them." (Cited in class notes from Seminary, *The Pauline Epistles*)

2. Some of the Circumstances of Paul's Second Journey

a. At Philippi, Acts 16:19-26.

b. At Thessalonica, Acts 17:1-13.

3. The Charge of the Jews Against Paul

***Point:** Paul's ministry wasn't a fly-by-night thing. Think of it... two thousand years have come and gone and his ministry continues to change the lives of God's people. That's gravitas! That's staying power!

Where We Live

1. Sadly most of you here don't have that vision. *God use you to impact Christians living a hundred years from now? What a joke!* Yet herein is the import of this passage in our lives- for it contains the reasons why Paul's ministry wasn't in vain, but instead had a significant impact amongst the Thessalonians as well as the world.
2. Until then, what is required of you? May I encourage you... cultivate a longing for your ministry not to be in vain!
 - a. This passion drove Paul (Gal. 2:2b; Phil. 2:26b; 1 Thes. 3:5; 2:1)...
 - b. This passion has driven many throughout church history...
 - c. Will this passion drive you?