

## "Has My Spirit Passed The Test?"

### 1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

July 21, 2013

C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 – 28)

#### 7. Blamelessness Requires That We Test All Things By God's Word & Avoid What Is Deficient, (vs. 21-22)

**Message Emphasis:** There are many things that claim to be of Jesus Christ; we must be discerning in whether they truly exalt Christ or not. ONLY those things that exalt Christ are fit for the child of God. Does my spirit pass this test?

#### 21.1) Jesus' Spirit Is Easy To See

Why does Paul say...

On what basis are we able to...

**"Test** (Pre.Act.Impv) prove valuable) **Everything**"- <sup>1)</sup> "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. <sup>2)</sup> Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>3)</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:15-20, ESV)

- 1) Christ's Transforming Influence Is Unmistakable; either it is there or it is not
- 2) Christ's Creative Dominion Is Unalterable; either it is healthy & good or diseased & bad
- 3) Christ's Sovereign Rule Is Undeniable; either it is life or death

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; ~Civilla D. Martin,*

#### 21.2) Jesus' Spirit Leads Only To The Truth

How is it possible for me to... What do I need to...

**"Hold** (Pre.Act.Impv) **Fast To What Is Good**"- <sup>1)</sup> "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (**Perf.Act.Part**) him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>2)</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" <sup>3)</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:31-36, ESV)

- 1) The Spirit Of Christ Plants His Truth Into The Believer's Heart
- 2) The Appearances Of "Truth" That Don't Come From Christ ONLY Deceive
- 3) This Is Why Christ Said That ONLY His Spirit Can Set You Free

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. ~ Charles Wesley*

#### 22.3) Jesus' Spirit Hates What Is Evil

What does "abstaining" look like in my life?

**"Abstain** (Pre.Mid.Impv) **From Every Form Of Evil**"- <sup>1)</sup> "He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, <sup>2)</sup> who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, <sup>3)</sup> who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil..." (Isaiah 33:15-16, ESV)

- 1) Walking & Talking ONLY What Is Righteous & Upright
- 2) Despising Gain From Oppression & Will Not Partner With It In Corruption
- 3) Not Allowing Evil To Enter One's Ears Or Vision

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home. ~ John Newton*

**\*\*\* The Question Is Not What Must I Do? Rather, What Must I Do To Be Saved? \*\*\***

Loving Father

Gentle Mother

Obedient Child

Gracious Neighbor

Moral Citizen

**Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Him can you discern what is good.

**"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:22, ESV)**

**1) "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already." (1 John 4:1-3)**

- 1) Christ requires that we "test" what we see & hear to see if it is genuine; there are many frauds.
- 2) The "test" is simple; does it exalt Christ? Yes, then it is from God.
- 3) If the answer is no; it is from the devil and exalts something other than Christ.

8. Blamelessness Is Only Accomplished By The Sanctifying Power Of Christ Unto The Last Day, (vs. 23)
9. Blamelessness Is A Promise That Christ Himself Has Given To Those Who Believe Him, (vs. 24)
10. Blamelessness In Christ Is The Identifying Mark Of Those Who Love Christ & The Brothers, (vs. 25-26)
11. Blamelessness Is Not A Secondary Issue But Must Be Primary To The Call Of God's People, (vs. 27-28)

- III We must pay much closer attention to why we must live with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)
- A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 - 12)
  - B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 - 17)
  - C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)