

“O Brother, Where Art Thou?”

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

August 4, 2013

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

Blamelessness In Christ Is The Identifying Mark Of Those Who Love Christ & The Brothers, (vs. 25-26)

Message Emphasis: Many today claim an identity in Christ but are greatly lacking in love for their brothers & sisters in Christ. If we are to be blameless before our Lord, we must love Him & His people.

It sounded t'me like he harbored some kinda hateful grudge... on account of their rough and rowdy past... Sounds like Homer Stokes is the kind of fella who wants to cast the first stone. Well, I'm with you folks. I'm a forgive 'n' forget Christian... ~~ Pappy O'Daniel

25.1) Christ’s Spirit In Us Transforms Our Thoughts & Prayers

“Brothers, Pray (Pres.Act.Impv) For Us”- 1) “For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 2) Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 3) He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 4) You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.” (2 Corinthians 1:8–11, ESV)

1) Christ Commands Us Not To Pray For Ease But For Perseverance

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2) Christ Commands Us Not To Pray For Victory But For Dependence

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

3) Christ Commands Us Not To Pray For Speed But For Endurance

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

4) Christ Commands Us Not To Pray For Ourselves But For The Brothers

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer. Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be no need for prayer Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.

26.2) Christ’s Spirit In Us Transforms Our Affections

“Greet (Aor.Mid.Ipv) All The Brothers w/ Holy Kiss”- 1) “Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. 2) For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 3) And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 3:1–5, ESV)

1) Christ’s Affections Are For The Salvation Of God’s People

Behold, what love, what boundless love, The Father hath bestowed On sinners lost, that we should be Now called “the sons of God!”

2) Christ’s Affections Are For The Faithful Love Of God’s People

No longer far from Him but now By “precious blood” made nigh, Accepted in the “Well beloved,” Near to God's heart we lie.

3) Christ’s Affections Are For The Steadfast Obedience Of God’s People

What we in glory soon shall be, It doth not yet appear; But when our precious Lord we see, We shall His image bear.

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

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Him can you truly love & pray for your brothers & sisters in Christ.

“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) “I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, 2) to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, 3) and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 4) so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.” (Romans 15:30–33, ESV)

1) Anything we do must be done in the name of Christ & by the love of the Spirit.

2) Anything we pray about must be either for the furtherance of the gospel to the lost...

3) ...Or the unifying service to the Church.

4) Anything we hope to accomplish must be by the will of God and for the edifying of the body.

Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving every day; Just one glimpse of Him in glory Will the toils of life repay.

When we all get to Heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!

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)