

## "Is There Any Proof Of God's Love For Me?"

2 Thessalonians  
September 22, 2013

### III We must pay much closer attention to living 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)

#### 3. The Gospel Produces The Real Evidence That The Believer Is Accepted Before God, (vs. 5)

**Message Emphasis:** Many desire to see the proof of their acceptance before God but are unwilling to accept suffering as being part of God's ordination. We must realize that God has given His children the very real proof of their adoption; ordained suffering.

#### 5.1) Christ Has Given Us Very Real Proof Of Our Adoption

Our Text Says, "**This Is Evidence Of The Righteous Judgment Of God**"- **1)** "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. **2)** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. **3)** Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. **4)** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:14-17, ESV)

- 1) There is evidence that demands a verdict; insults of Christ ...many accept the good but not the bad  
*"Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips." (Job 2:9-10, ESV)*
- 2) Insults for sin do not qualify ...many are really suffering because of their own sin  
*"For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God." (1 Peter 2:20, ESV)*
- 3) We should not be ashamed of suffering for Christ but glorify God - *"And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"" (Acts 26:28, ESV)*
- 4) The evidence of who belongs to Christ & who does not is clear

*The work which his goodness began, The arm of his strength will complete; His promise is Yea and Amen, And never was forfeited yet. Things future, nor things that are now, Nor all things below or above, Can make him his purpose forgo, Or sever my soul from his love.*

#### 5.2) Christ Has Openly Declared Our Worth For His Kingdom

Our Text Says, "**That You May Be Considered Worthy (Aor.Pas.Inf)**"- **1)** "...It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, **2)** ...And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. **3)** But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district." (Acts 13:46-50, ESV)

- 1) Christ is the measure of our worth for His kingdom  
*"Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:45-47, ESV)*
- 2) Those who do not see themselves as worthy rejoice to find out they are  
*"He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad." (John 11:51-52)*
- 3) Those who think they are worthy are incensed to find out they aren't

*The Lord's our Rock, in him we hide, A shelter in the time of storm; Secure whatever ill betide, A shelter in the time of storm.*

#### 5.3) Christ Has Shown Us These Things Through His "Hard Providences" ...many see God as Sovereign over what is good and miss that He is sovereign over all including the bad & the ugly

Our Text Says, "**For Which You Are Also Suffering (Pres.Act.Ind)**"- "But **recall the former days** when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore **do not throw away your confidence**, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." (Hebrews 10:32-36, ESV)

*The strife is o'er, the battle done; The victory of life is won; The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!  
The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed: Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!*

**What Must I Do To Be Saved? \*\*\* Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ can you find the proof of your adoption in that God has purposed for you to suffer as His only Son suffered. "**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)

*"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have." (Philippians 1:27-30, ESV)*

4. The Gospel Provides The Real Standard By Which God Will Repay Each Person, (vs. 6 – 7a)
5. The Gospel Promises The Real Proof Of Christ's Sovereignty At His Appearing, (vs. 7b – 8)
6. The Gospel Promises The Real Judgment Of Those Who Do Not Believe In Christ, (vs. 9)
7. The Gospel Promises The Real Glorification Of Christ When He Confirms The Testimony, (vs. 10)
8. The Gospel Prepares The Real Faith Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 11)
9. The Gospel Prepares The Real Grace Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 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)