

"How You Ought To Walk"

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

January 27, 2013

"he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:5-6, ESV)

God Has Predestined His Children Not To Wrath But For Salvation Through Jesus Christ, (vs. 5: 9)

- II We must pay much closer attention to how we put into practice what we say we believe, (vs. 4: 1 – 5: 28)
 - A. The revelation of God requires that His children live in holiness & purity not lustful passions, (vs. 4: 1 – 12)

12. The Call To Holiness Is The Authentication Of The Gospel Message, (vs. 12)

12.1) Holiness Materially Affects How You Function Day-to-Day

"So That You Walk Properly"-

"With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ." (2 Corinthians 8:18-23, ESV)

12.2) Holiness Materially Affects How The Gospel Is Seen

"Before Outsiders"-

"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:1-7, ESV)

12.3) Holiness Materially Affects Life's Very Heartbeat

"Dependent On No One"-

"For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way." (2 Corinthians 11:2-9, ESV)

1) "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 2) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – 3) that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. 4) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 5) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Colossians 4:2-6, ESV)

- 1) Holiness is not the default position; we must be vigilant.
- 2) Holiness is fragile in the lives of all believers.
- 3) Holiness must be the clear message; its words cannot be minced.
- 4) Holiness is the very foundation of the Christian testimony.
- 5) Holiness is the only way to prepare to give an answer.

How is your gospel witness altered by your degree of holiness?

- B. The revelation of God requires that His children be informed about the reality of the last day, (vs. 4: 13 – 5: 11)
 - C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 – 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)