

“Confidence In The Lord”

2 Thessalonians 3: 1 - 18

May 18, 2014

III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God’s word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

God Has Called His People To Rely On His Faithfulness To Guard Them Against The Evil One, (vs. 3 - 5)

Message Emphasis: The believer is called, by the work of the Gospel, to put their trust in God’s protection as they are actively engaged in promoting the Kingdom of Christ. Many today see the evil one as a foe to be conquered or subdued as they “rule;” however, we must see that Christ has already defeated the evil one and that we are called to declare the victory of Christ’s kingdom and not fight to establish our own.

... your staying in London in the time of the last great plague, when death peeped in at every window, and when most magistrates, ministers, and people were fled from their habitations, – the terror of the Lord and of his judgments being very great in that day, upon all sorts and ranks of men, – and that chiefly, mainly, if not only, upon the account of public service, and that nothing might be wanting on your side to preserve poor creatures from perishing... the Lord is faithful, and will not forget to reward your work, your great work, your hazardous work, and that matchless love... that you shewed to very many that were impoverished for want of trade, and to very many that lay in a sick, languishing, and dying condition. How free, how full, how seasonable, how suitable, how impartial, how constant, and well regulated your charity then was, and since hath been, is very well known to God above, and to some faithful friends still alive; but all will out in the great day... ~ Thomas Brooks, 1669

1) Christ Remains Always Faithful To Maintain His Kingdom, (vs. 3)

Why is Christ faithful to establish & guard?

- Our ONLY hope is in Christ

If Christ is not faithful – all hope is lost!

But the Lord is (Pres.Act.Ind) **faithful.** “so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:7-9, ESV)

- Our ONLY strength is in Christ

Could we be in temptation because we do not trust ONLY in Christ?

He will establish (Fut.Act.Ind) **you** “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” (Mat 6:13)

- Our ONLY protection is in Christ

How does trusting ONLY in Christ change our prayers?

and guard (Fut.Act.Ind) **you** “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” (John 17:15, ESV)

- Our ONLY goal IS Christ

Is your hope directly proportioned to what you hold most dear?

against the evil one. “Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”” (John 6:68-69, ESV)

2) Christ Remains Always Faithful To Maintain Order Within His Ranks, (vs. 4)

Why can any of us have confidence that

obedience is achievable?

- We can have confidence but ONLY in Christ

Christ marks us out as one of His

And we have confidence (Perf.Act.Ind) **in the Lord about you,** “I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.” (Romans 15:14, ESV)

- The tangible fruits of obedience are visible

We can know if we belong to Christ

that you are doing (Pres.Act.Ind) “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.” (2 Corinthians 8:20-22, ESV)

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.

- The tangible fruits of obedience can be anticipated

We can trust that obedience is forthcoming

and will do (Fut.Act.Ind) “I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it – to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.” (Philemon 19-21)

- The tangible fruits of obedience must be regulated by Scripture

the things that we command (Pres.Act.Ind).

3) Christ Remains Always Faithful To Maintain The Steadfastness Of The Gospel, (vs. 5)

What is it about love & steadfastness?

May the Lord direct (Aor.Act.Opt) **your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.**

*****What Must I Do To Be Assured Of Faith? *****

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ will you find victory over the evil of this world.

3. God Has Called His People To Work & Refrain From Idleness Which Is Worldly, (vs. 6 - 8)
4. God Has Called His People To Serve As An Example Of True Godliness In Very Simple Ways, (vs. 9 - 12)
5. God Has Called His People To Preserve The Holiness Of Their Testimony, (vs. 13 - 15)
6. God Has Called His People To Trust In The Teachings Handed Down By His Messengers, (vs. 16 - 18)