

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

May 22, 2016

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

---

---

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is our Helper

Psalm 10:12-14: "Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up Thy hand. Do not forget the afflicted. Why has the wicked spurned God? He has said to himself, 'Thou wilt not require *it*.' Thou hast seen *it*, for Thou hast beheld mischief and vexation to take it into Thy hand. The unfortunate commits *himself* to Thee; Thou hast been the helper of the orphan."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 147:1-3

+We Adore Him

Hymn #76, "Praise, My Soul"

*From Psalm 103*

We Confess Our Sin

Great God of Mercy. Sin has blinded our eyes that we cannot see sin's deformity, except as You are pleased to unmask it. Such is our deadness, that we cannot hate sin except as You shall graciously implant abhorrence. Such is our infirmity, that we cannot flee sin except as Your strength enables. Conscious of our total inability, we come to You for light, for help, for strength, for blessing.

Our sins without number stare us in the face! They are piled as mountain upon mountain. Their height reaches unto the heavens! But their full extent is open only to Your omniscient eye. The burden of our known transgressions weighs us to the dust. But the burden is light, compared to the mass which the scales of Your justice hold. We see but little, because our light is partial and our sight is dim. How must man appear when seen by You, before whom the very heavens are not clean! You charge Your holy angels with folly. What must be Your estimate of our sin! Humbled for what we see and feel, we meekly cry, "Pardon all our sins, for Jesus' sake!"

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #188, "Jesus, I Am Resting"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Ps. 147:10-11

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #691, "When Peace, Like A River"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Ps. 147:12, 19

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #309, "Rejoice, The Lord Is King"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

## Excellence in the Ministry, Pt. 5b

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Study Notes for May 22, 2016

### I. Introduction: Purpose of a Foundation

\*The foundation of a structure doesn't provide for the stability of a structure; it rather determines the shape and size of the structure- what the structure is going to look like!

### II. Excellence in the Ministry, 1 Thes. 4:1-12.

A. As it Relates to God: Devotion, vv. 1-8.

#### B. As it Relates to the Body of Christ: Love, vv. 9-12.

1. The Issue/Background, v. 9a.
2. The Call, v. 10b.

#### 3. The Foundation, vv. 9-10a.

##### a. An Understanding of what we have become in Christ, v. 9a.

Paul's choice of words here is quite significant. The word for "love of the brethren" comes from φιλαδελφία (*philadelphia*)...

It is noteworthy that this is the first time Paul used this term in all his writings. Yet it was to this rich and vivid Social Institution- the family- to which he turned in his battle against the Social Institution of Patronage which we discussed last time- the institution in which a person became the ward of another individual or group of individuals and so lived off of them...

Gordon Fee, speaking of the familial bonds that we now have in Christ, wrote, "This newly formed family relationship in Christ will thus serve as the context for Paul's- in this case very slight- admonition to those who were living thus. Whether or not they themselves would have appealed to this new relationship in Christ as the basis for their non-activity cannot be known; what can be known is that Paul is ready to use this word as the framework for their hearing the admonition that follows." (*The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians*, NICNT, p. 159)

#### The Background: Mt. 12:49-50; Gen. 17:7

G. L. Green wrote, "The Thessalonians were subject to social rejection due to their new faith (2:14), while Christian conversion generally brought instability to the traditional family unit (cf. Matt. 10:21; Mark 13:12; Luke 21:16), realities that highlight the importance of the believers' mutual love as members of the same kinship group... [In this regard, t]he church assumed the function of a family..." (*The Letters to the Thessalonians*, p. 203)

It was based on this that Paul exhorted the Thessalonians in our text. And so we must see that Paul here is NOT teaching something new, BUT referencing the Institution of the Forever Family of God as his rebuke to the free-loaders in Thessalonica! Again, look at the text...

\***Point:** So what have we become in Christ? The Forever Family of God! To live in light of this is to extend an unconditional love for the body of Christ that defies description! If the Thessalonian free-loaders understood this, they wouldn't view the church as a vehicle of getting, but a place to give, serve, encourage, support, and much more! Another basis of appeal that Paul made to the free loaders in Thessalonica revolves around...

##### b. An Understanding of God's word, v. 9b.

**-taught by God:** this is a unique word in all of ancient Greek language. In fact, it is NOT found in secular or Koine Greek OR any other place in the NT, but here! As such, it is believed by many that Paul made up this word! The Greek word is θεοδιδακτος (*theodidaktos*) which is a compound of two Greek words: θεός (*theos*)/God and διδάσκω (*didaskō*)/to teach. Paul's word here has plain reference to Is. 54:13 (cf. Jn. 6:45)...

Furthermore, Paul places the main verb in the present tense which furthers our conviction that Paul here is talking about the Doctrine of Illumination. In the Greek, a present tense conveys the idea of an ever and always present action. And so in and through all things, God gives His children the ability to read the word, understand it, and so apply it to their lives...

### \*Where We Live

1. This normalizes the study of the Bible with the expectation that each and everyone of us ought not only to be in the word, but laboring to apply the word in our lives. If this were modelled by any congregation, consumerism would all but vanish for there are so many exhortations which call upon the child of God to live not unto themselves, but unto the benefit of others (cf. Rom. 15:1-2; Jn. 13:34; 1 Jn. 4:20-21; 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:16; 3 Jn. 4; Jn. 15:13)...
  2. Example: there are churches/denominations that actually believe that Bible study ought NOT to be done by their members!...
  3. Listen to a most important Foundational Principle when it comes to the body life of the church: On account of the Spirit of God, you are God-taught when it comes to the word of God! That means you have the ability to read, understand, and apply this God's word!
  4. Toward that end, let me give you three questions you want to be able to answer after studying a passage...
    - a. What does the text say?
    - b. What truth struck you?
    - c. If you were living in light of that truth yesterday, what difference would it have made?
- c. Submission to God's Word, 10a.**

In their living, many in Thessalonica walked with God! The Free-loaders/Consumers needed only to look at their brothers and sisters and see what they were missing when it came to the delight of loving, knowing, and serving the Lord!

That is the net impact of Paul's exhortation here: ***"Love of the brethren is widely practiced and enjoyed in Thessalonica! Hey free loaders, look at the practice of your brothers and see what you are missing!"*** (cf. Ps. 42:1; 73:25; 16:11b; Phil. 3:8, 10)...

Gordon Fee wrote, "In this context Paul is also about to place the disruptive-idle within the context of the larger community of faith. So not only are they 'taught by God' to love one another, but this is in fact what most of the community is already doing." (*The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians*, NICNT. v. 160)

### \*Where We Live

1. Bringing It Together
  - a. Look around the church and find a woman or man who genuinely loves the Lord and is walking with Him. What is it that will characterize them?
  - b. If you were to follow their example as they follow Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), what would be the one universal that would be common to all?
2. From this we walk away with an important theme when it comes to our faith: The Essence of Christianity is NOT getting more from God or His people, BUT using that which God has given us to the building up of the body of Christ unto the praise of the glory of His grace!