

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

May 29, 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 Angry

Psalm 79:1-7: "O God, the nations have invaded Thine inheritance; they have defiled Thy holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the dead bodies of Thy servants for food to the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Thy godly ones to the beasts of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem; and there was no one to bury them. We have become a reproach to our neighbors, a scoffing and derision to those around us. How long, O Lord? Wilt Thou be angry forever? Will Thy jealousy burn like fire? Pour out Thy wrath upon the nations which do not know Thee, and upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Thy name. For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his habitation."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 30:4-5

+We Adore Him

Hymn #56, "When All Your Mercies"

We Confess Our Sin

Heavenly Father, You have declared that today we should return to you with a whole heart. Yet, we know that we have not returned. We are unable to return.

You have declared that genuine repentance would cause us to lose our appetite for other things – for food, for the lusts of this world – yet our appetites remain and we continue to delight in the passing pleasures of sin, rather than You.

You have declared that a true return would include weeping and mourning – brokenness and contriteness of heart. We are unable to conjure up such emotions, such brokenness, such contriteness. We have not wept. We have not mourned.

We have come to the end of ourselves, Heavenly Father. As such we lay ourselves before You, asking you to forgive us

even as we lack the ability to obey. You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Will and to work of your good pleasure in our hearts, so that we might return to You this day and every day. Cause us to hunger and thirst after You and Your righteousness, that we might be satisfied, today and every day. In Your graciousness and mercy, restore unto us the joy of our salvation, knowing that You abound in steadfast love. Amen. (Taken primarily from Joel 2:12-13)

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #197, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Ps. 35:9-10

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #609, "Why Should Cross And Trial Grieve Me?"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Jn. 17:17

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #358, "For All The Saints"

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. 5c

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Study Notes for May 29, 2016

I. Introduction

Foreign exchange students and the many struggles they face in America...

The church involves many of the same difficulties that occur when cultures are mixed!

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.

4. The Implication of the Call, v. 11.

a. Endeavor Not to be a “Taker”, v. 11a.

A creative pun...

The word behind “**make it your ambition**” is φιλοτιμέομαι (*philotimeomai*) which literally means “to be fond of honor” (*phileō*, to love, *timē*, honor)...

The word for “**a quiet life**” is used to reference one of two concepts in Greek: either of “*not speaking at all*” or of “*being restful*.” The term, however, is NOT self-defining- which means it needs a context in order to understand what specifically is being communicated by the expression...

***Point:** So Paul is exhorting those in the Thessalonica who were depending on the church to meet their financial needs (1) to cease and desist, and so (2) to strive with NOT to depend upon the church for these things!

***Where We Live:** We are talking here ultimately about the sufficiency of Christ!

1. Our Therapeutic age

2. Paul’s prescription to a church struggling with anxiety, depression, fear, worry, and genuine concerns about tomorrow? Cf. Phil. 4:6-7; Ps. 73:25-26; Ps. 46:1-3; Hab. 3:16-19...

3. Practically speaking, we are talking here about...

G. L. Green wrote, “Moreover, within the Christian community itself the question of fraternal love was of paramount importance since the church was open to people of all social classes and any ethnic background. Both the free and the slave were welcome, while Greeks, Romans, Macedonians, Jews, and barbarians gathered together to share the same cup in the worship of their one Lord. Men and women had equal status, as did citizens and foreigners in this community where common social boundaries were crossed as a fruit of their common salvation (Gal. 3:23; Rom. 1:16–17; Col 3:11). In such a community, it would not be surprising for questions to surface about the meaning of ‘fraternal love.’” (*The Letters to the Thessalonians*, p. 203)

b. Focus on the “Log in our own Eye”, v. 11b.

Review: In the Social Institution of Patronage, what did the “leach” do when he wasn’t singing the praises of his benefactor? Cf. 2 Thes. 3:11-12...

So what happens when you have too much free time on your hands... like some in Thessalonica? You sit around and take potshots at others in the body of Christ. You become busybodies!!!

Created to Co-Reign

Accordingly, what was Paul’s command to these Christians? Cf. Mt. 7:3-5...

***Point:** When it comes to the Body Life of the Church, we must do away with all forms of judgmentalism where we think that it is our duty to fix the lives of those around us and so poke our nose into other people’s business! The antidote is to understand that we all will stand before God and render account for the deeds done in our lives (2 Cor. 5:10).

c. Stop Seeking from the Church what we ought to Acquire on our Own, v. 11c.

The focus here is on labor- specifically the acquiring and maintaining of a job...

The scriptural standard is quite clear, “He who does not work does not eat!” (2 Thes. 3:10)

***Point:** To the one in Thessalonica who quite their job in order devote themselves to the “godly” pursuit of criticizing the church and acting like busybodies, Paul said, “Stop seeking from the church what you ought to acquire on your own!”

***Where We Live**

1. Such is the call that rests on our lives- yet there is a twist, for in our wealthy culture few are living off the generosity of others! And so by way of application, let’s exchange the concept of “physical food” (which again is NOT a problem today in the church) for “spiritual food” (which is a problem)!
3. How many in the body of Christ today in America are depending upon another for spiritual feeding? Cf. Deut. 17:18-20a; Josh. 1:8a; Is. 50:4...

5. The Motive of our Devotion, v. 12.

a. An Evangelical Concern, v. 12a.

b. A Ministry Concern, v. 12b.