

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

May 10, 2015

*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!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Kind

Luke 6:35-38: "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 43:3-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #645, "Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee"

We Confess Our Sin

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being; whose face is hidden from us by our sins; and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; now cleanse us from all our sins! From proud thoughts and vain desires, deliver us O Lord. Grant that with lowliness and meekness we may draw near to You. We confess our sins, we confide in Your grace, and we find in You our refuge and our strength. Bear Your good fruit in us and through us, through Jesus Christ, our life. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #6, "O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou The Lord"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Lk. 6:36-38

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #81, "O Love Of God, How Strong And True"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Is. 12:3

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #618, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

**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.

## A Cross-Section of a Healthy Church, Pt. 1

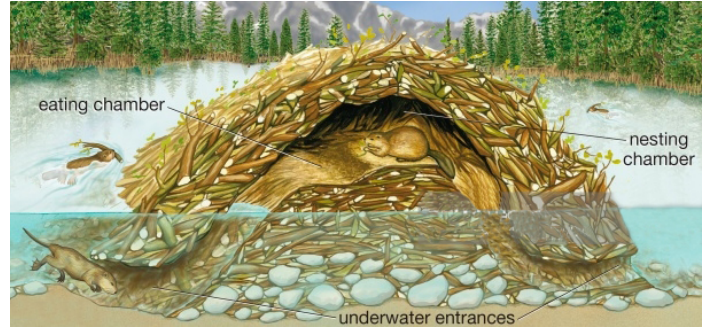
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Study Notes for May 10, 2015

### I. Introduction

**Cross Section:** “a view or drawing that shows what the inside of something looks like after a cut has been made across it.” (Merriam-Webster)

The passage before us has Paul reflecting back upon what made this church what it was. It is a description of what stood out in Paul’s mind as he thought about this church, and so what he wanted to encourage when it came to this body!



Paul’s reflection started with what was obvious and most prominent about the Thessalonians- their “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope.” This was followed by a consideration of the infrastructure of this church as well as its foundation. As ones seeking to learn from this passage, it will be most helpful to consider the internal workings of this church first (for it was based on these that the prominent characteristics of this church flowed). Yet in doing this we will need to work our way backwards through this text.

### II. A Cross-Section of a Healthy Church, 1 Thes. 1:2-10.

#### A. Its Foundational Creed, vv. 10b-e.

##### 1. The Doctrine of the Resurrection of Christ, v. 10b.

The Resurrection of Christ was a crucial element to Paul’s teaching (Acts 17:18; Rom. 10:9; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; cf. also Mt. 22:23; Acts 17:32a; 1 Cor. 15:12)...

The Resurrection of Christ is a Foundational Doctrine upon which Christianity either stands or falls- and Satan knows it! Deny the doctrine of the Resurrection of Christ and there is no salvation (cf. 1 Cor. 15:13-14)...

Why is this doctrine so foundational? It revolves around the basis upon which God can accept a sinner into His presence...

1. The Creation of Man
2. The Fall
3. The Promise of a Mediator

Yet one question: How do we know Jesus was God? How do we know He had the authority to die in our place and so atone for our sin? God addressed that question with the resurrection (rom. 1:3-4a; Acts 17:31; Mt. 27:50; Jn. 10:18)!

\*Point: A healthy church- for that manner, any church- is founded upon this essential truth: the Resurrection of Christ! To deny this doctrine is to compromise ones entire existence as a church or a Christian!

##### 2. The Sacrificial, Saving Death of Christ, v. 10c.

Christ’s death and resurrection was NOT for Himself. Christ died for sinners... and rose for sinners! We see it so beautifully in Paul’s choice of words here...

Jesus

Delivers

Do you understand the significance of this truth on the body life of the church? We START with the confession that we are sinners! We BEGIN acknowledging that in ourselves we are wretches before God! How have we missed this? How is it that the church today in the US has missed this?...

\*Point: A healthy church rests on the foundation of (1) The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead, and (2) The Sacrificial, Saving Death of Christ by which we are preserved for a glorious future!

### 3. The Doctrine of the Final Judgment, v. 10e.

The Doctrine of the Final Judgment is not a very popular doctrine in the church today. Sadly, it is one that many have altogether abandoned! Yet what a mistake! God's wrath and the punishment of hell which comes as a result are one of the top 2 most frequently discussed subjects in the Bible (cf. Ps. 7:11; Ps. 80:4; Heb. 3:11; Rev. 6:16-17)...

Define: In the Bible, ὀργή/*orga* (wrath) refers to settled indignation. It is the opposite of "blowing up." This is not to say that it does NOT include a subjective element, for it does. And so when used of God it speaks not just of punishment; it also is a holy revulsion of God's being against the objects of His wrath. Thus to say "the wrath of God" is not only to say something about what God does, but also about what HE IS in doing it! And so, when used of God it carries with it the twofold idea of (1) Judicial Punishment and (2) Displeasure/Anger.

This "wrath" currently is being "stored up" by God when it comes to the sinner. Consider Rom. 2:5-6; it tells us two things about God's wrath...

#### 1. There is no sin committed by the sinner in this life that will escape God's notice...

*Storing up wrath:* this is an interesting choice of words. To "store up"/treasure had a positive connotation in Paul's day carrying the idea of "laying up as a treasure little by little." Accordingly Paul here is purposefully being shocking. As he is speaking about morally upright individuals who think that their good actions will earn them heaven, Paul essentially says, "Your religion will indeed receive a reward at the end of time, but NOT the reward you think..."

#### 2. There will be a time in the future when God executes judgment on account of sin...

*In the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God:* this is referencing the Final Judgment! Truly there is coming a time when ALL mankind will stand before God's judgment seat and be judged for what they have been or done (Mt. 10:26; 1 Pet. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 4:4-5a)...

For the child of God who has been "delivered from the wrath to come," this day will be a day of vindication, where their salvation is proclaimed and they inherit the glorious blessing that await all in Christ: the New Heavens and Earth! Yet for the non-believer, this is a horrible day of recompense (Mt. 25:41; Jn. 5:29; Rom. 2:8-9; Is. 66:24)...

This is a crucial doctrine upon which a healthy church rests! Without it, there is no gospel... no mission... no urgency! If we reject this doctrine, we are left with the message of Protestant liberalism...

"A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through a Christ without a cross."

...yet with the doctrine of judgment, the church is sobered, understandably frightened, awakened, cautioned, and moved to action!