

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

June 26, 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 Guide

Isaiah 41:9-10: "You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts, and said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 67:3-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #96, "Unto The Hills"

Psalm 121

We Confess Our Sin

O Lord, we are a shell full of dust. In ourselves, we are no rare object of value. We have nothing and are nothing. When You would guide us, we control ourselves. When You would be sovereign, we rule ourselves. When you would take care of us, we suffice ourselves. When we should submit to Your providence, we follow our will. When we should study, love, honor, and trust You, we serve ourselves. We fault and correct Your laws to suit ourselves. Instead of You, we look to man's approval.

Lord, it is our chief goal to have an undistracted heart, devoted completely to You. Convince us that we cannot be our own god or restore ourselves to You. Help us to see that grace does this through Your loving discipline, for when our god is attention, You cast us lower, when riches are our idol, You wing them away, when pleasure is our all, You turn it into bitterness.

Take away our roving eyes, curious ears, greedy appetites, lustful hearts; show us that none of these things can heal a wounded conscience, or support a tottering frame, or uphold a departing spirit. Oh Lord, take us to the cross and

leave us there. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #98, "Now Thank We All Our God"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

2 Sam. 24:24

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #692, "To You, O Lord, I Fly"

From Psalm 16:1, 2, 5-8, 11

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

1 Pet. 2:1-2

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #465, "Marvelous Grace Of Our Loving Lord"

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.

Perspectives on the Second Coming of Christ, Pt. 4a

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Study Notes for June 26, 2016

I. Introduction

Have you ever heard of Homer and Langley Collyer?

Sadly, the way they chose to live is paralleled by so many in the body of Christ today!

This morning we come to the final section in Paul's treatment of the Second Coming of Christ where the apostle exhorted the Thessalonians to live according to the glorious promises they had been given in Christ! Notice v. 6...



-so then: ἄρα οὖν; throughout his writing, Paul uses this formula to introduce the inescapable, moral consequence of a particular teaching (cf. 2 Thes. 2:15; Gal. 6:10).

II. Perspectives on the Second Coming of Christ, 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11.

- A. Its Character, 1 Thes. 4:15-17.
- B. Its Relevancy, 1 Thes. 4:13-14, 18.
- C. Its Inauguration, 1 Thes. 5:1-5a.

D. Its Implication, 1 Thes. 5:6b-11.

1. Knowledge about the Second Coming of Christ should make us Alert, vv. 6a, 7.

The word comes from the Greek γρηγορέω (*grēgoreō*) which is where my name comes from, "Gregory." It literally means "to watch" and so could refer to the activity of a soldier who stood on a city wall and "watched" by day or night for any and all suspicious behavior. Yet that is NOT its primary use in the Bible. Figuratively it spoke of a vigilance that was demanded in light of an impending crisis. For example...

Matthew 24:42

Mark 13:33-37

Revelation 3:3

Hebrews 13:17a

With this, notice the context of Paul's exhortation here (1 Thes. 5:5, 10)...

In the words of W.S. Plumer, "We never see sin aright until we see it as against God... All sin is against God in this sense: that it is His law that is broken, His authority that is despised, His government that is set at naught..." (Quoted in *The Pursuit of Holiness*, pp. 20-21)

***Point:** On account of the Second Coming of Christ the child of God is called to labor for Spiritual Vigilance in and through all things!

***Where We Live**

1. Based on the above passages, what does Spiritual Vigilance look like in the life of a child of God?
 2. Beware of De-Training!
 3. And so, be mindful of where Christ has brought you on account of His cross work (cf. 1 Thes. 5:7)...
2. Knowledge about the Second Coming of Christ should make us Self-controlled, vv. 6b, 8.

Sobriety Defined

The word used for "sober" here is a word literally used of "sobriety" in reference to drinking/drunkenness; it

is the opposite of intoxication. In this regard, consider what happens physically to a person when they get drunk...

...thus, “being sober” negatively defined means that a foreign substance does NOT have control of our brain!

In this regard Paul has made a fascinating parallel here in using this word to call upon *SPIRITUAL* sobriety. What is Spiritual Sobriety?

...we need to realize that the soul and so our mind/reasoning/desiring is NOT independent and self-determined. Either it will be subject to sin or subject to God! When it is controlled by God we are sober. When it is controlled by anything else, we are spiritually drunk (cf. Rom. 6:16; Eph. 2:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 Jn. 5:20)!

Sobriety Translated into our Lives

As ones who have been freed from the tyranny of Satan and so given a new mind and so a new way of thinking, believing, desiring, etc., what are we called to do/be?

Romans 12:2

Galatians 5:16-17 (cf. Col. 3:2; Phil. 2:5)

Galatians 3:1

Romans 13:11-14

...do you understand what Paul is saying here when he calls us to Sobriety? It is that we ensure that no worldly thought, desire, emotion, or motive takes control of our soul and so progressively inhibit its functioning. Rather, it is to ensure that ever and always we are governed and so bound by the person of Christ, His Kingdom, His work, and so His word!

In the words of Dr. Otto Bauernfeind defining the word here used for “sober”, “...in the five instances (1 Th. 5:6, 8; 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8) *nêphō* means acknowledgment of the reality of revelation and discharge of the resultant ministry in worship, hope, love, and conflict.”
(Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Kittel, p. 634)

Sobriety Cultivated (v. 8)

The Breastplate of Faith and Love

The word for “breastplate” is θώραξ (*thōrax*). It was a tough, sleeveless piece of armor that covered the soldier’s full torso and back. Its purpose was to protect the heart, lungs, intestines, and other vital organs. Now in Jewish thinking, this area was significant as it housed both the heart (seat of the will and thinking) and the bowels (seat of the emotions).

How do we safeguard them?

As a Helmet, the Hope of Salvation

The “helmet” referenced here was made of thick leather covered with metal plates (it could also be made of molded or beaten metal) with cheek pads to protect the face...

The significance of the “helmet” is that it protected the head which in the Jewish world was the seat of all life!

Accordingly when Paul speaks of a helmet which is “the hope of salvation,” he is addressing the essence of what enables a Christian to live/thrive in a world of sin, misery, and grief. What is it that enables us to keep going? To thrive in the midst of change, decay, suffering, sickness, and death?