

“Destined For This”

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

September 16, 2012

“he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:5-6, ESV)

God Has Predestined His Children Not To Wrath But For Salvation Through Jesus Christ, (vs. 5: 9)

- I. We must pay much closer attention to what we believe about God’s work of salvation, (vs. 1: 1 – 3: 13)
- C. God’s choice of His children for salvation motivates believers to see God’s work in others, (vs. 3: 1 – 13)

4. The work of the Gospel brings encouragement to those who labor, (vs. 6 – 7)

6.1) The Tangible Expressions Of Faith Bring Encouragement

“The Good News Of Your Faith”-

“For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.” (Galatians 5:5-6, ESV)

6.2) A Mature Love

“Love”- ¹ *“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:11-13, ESV)*

6.3) A Genuine Empathy

“Remember Kindly”- *“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.” (Hebrews 13:3, ESV)*

6.4) An Honest Desire For Others

“Long (Pres.Act.Part) To See”- ¹ *“For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ² And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ³ so that you may approve what is excellent, ⁴ and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ⁵ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, ⁶ to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:8-11, ESV)*

7) True Christian Encouragement Transcends The Struggles

“In Distress & Affliction – Comforted”-

¹ *“I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ² And now I ask you, dear lady – not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning – that we love one another. ³ And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁴ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁵ Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.” (2 John 4-8, ESV)*

1) “who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2) For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 3) If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.” (2 Corinthians 1:4-6, ESV)

- 1) We have been comforted so that we may comfort others.
- 2) Christ must be the source of discipline and comfort.
- 3) Whatever we may face, it is for the salvation and / or comfort of other believers.

How can you seek to rest in the comfort that God has brought to you through other believers?

5. The work of the Gospel is the only work that truly is worthwhile, (vs. 8 - 9)
6. The work of the Gospel requires the support and interaction of other believers, (vs. 10)
7. The work of the Gospel must be directed by the Lord Himself, (vs. 11)
8. The work of the Gospel can only be successful through the power of Christ, (vs. 12)
9. The work of the Gospel is about bring lost sinners into holiness before God, (vs. 13)

- II. We must pay much closer attention to how we put into practice what we say we believe, (vs. 4: 1 - 5: 28)
 - A. The revelation of God requires that His children live in holiness & purity not lustful passions, (vs. 4: 1 - 12)
 - B. The revelation of God requires that His children be informed about the reality of the last day, (vs. 4: 13 - 5: 11)
 - C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 - 28)
- III. We must pay much closer attention to why we must live with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)
 - A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 - 12)
 - B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 - 17)
 - C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)