

God, Gospel and Glorious Hope: 1 Thessalonians Review Sermon

April 25, 2021

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- are we all a little too prideful? Are we prideful like this guy?

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Muhammad Ali, the colorful 1960 light-heavyweight Olympic boxing champion who went on to hold the world heavyweight title three times, is known to have uttered many a memorable remark during his time in the spotlight. His personal catch phrase "I am the greatest" came to serve as an identifier of the man, in that whoever voiced it, one knew that person was alluding to Ali.

- but this arrogance did not stop with "I am the greatest"

Just before takeoff on an airplane flight, the stewardess reminded Ali to fasten his seat belt. "Superman don't need no seat belt," replied Ali.

"Superman don't need no airplane either," retorted the stewardess.

- sometimes we can be just like Ali who certainly thought he was all that!

- but no one comes into the of God strutting like a _____

- meaning that when we come to the Lord we do not come showing off our great colours

- we do not come before God strutting all the stuff we have done, but we come _____ knowing we have done nothing to impress God

- we also have brought nothing to make God _____ of us, except our need for God to provide a Saviour for us!

- so as we come to this book one last time and review and reflect upon the Word of God

- let us come to God with a _____ heart

- let us come to _____ with a dependent heart

- let us come to the Holy Spirit with the _____ that He will change us and transform us!

- are we going to receive the Word of God as what the Word of God really is or are we going to disregard His Holy Word to us!

Who Wrote This Book?

- there are _____ authors for the book of 1 Thessalonians

1) Paul

- _____ was a Jewish religious fanatic (a Pharisee) that hated Jesus and his followers
- But Paul's plans for stopping Christianity ended swiftly when the Lord met him, _____ him, changed him and set him apart for the work of ministry (Acts 9)

- Paul was known as a great missionary but also a _____ encourager
- he loved this congregation like a mother and like a _____

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God,

2) Silas (or Silvanus)

- _____ accompanied Paul in the book of Acts on his 2nd Missionary Journey
- He was a helper alongside of _____ doing the work of Jesus Christ for the church

3) Timothy

- _____ was a young Pastor, who was mentored by Paul
- was a Pastor in the city of Ephesus
- Paul wrote _____ letters to Timothy to encourage him

Who Received This Book?

- _____ who were living in the city of Thessalonica
- this city was primarily Gentile, but there were _____ who lived in Thessalonica as well
- the church in Thessalonica was primarily _____
- Thessalonica was a _____ city, but it was also on a well-travelled road
- this would mean that Thessalonica would have been busy with many visitors

- we know that this church first received the gospel in Acts _____

Acts 17:1-5 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And _____ went in, as was his custom, and on _____ Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

- the Jews in Thessalonica _____ the gospel so much that they followed Paul into Berea and created more problems for Paul and his preaching of the gospel

- this church had faced persecution and suffering because of their _____

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the _____ of the Holy Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 2:14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

Why Did Paul Write This Letter?

- 1) to _____ this congregation in the midst of persecution
- 2) to correct this congregation on some _____ teaching on the 2nd coming of Jesus
- 3) to _____-them in holy living because Paul had gotten a report from Timothy on some issues
- 4) to _____ Paul's ministry because Paul had been accused of numerous allegations

Outline of the Book of 1 Thessalonians

- 1) (1:1) Introduction
 - 2) (1:2-10) Prayer and Thanks for Thessalonian Church
 - 3) (2:1-16) Paul's Ministry at Thessalonica
 - 4) (2:17-3:5) Paul Loves and Longs to See the Thessalonian Church
 - 5) (3:6-13) Timothy's Report of the Thessalonian Church
 - 6) (4:1-12) Holiness and Love
 - 7) (4:13-5:11) What About the Last Days
 - 8) (5:12-22) Final Instructions
 - 9) (5:23-28) Conclusion
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Five Main Theological Themes in 1 Thessalonians

- 1) God**
- 2) Gospel**
- 3) Glorious Hope**
- 4) Great Living in the Lord**
- 5) God Centered Prayer**

1) God

- one of the best practices that you can do when reading your Bible is to mark with a highlighter or colored pencil a) _____ the Father b) _____ Christ and c) the _____ Spirit
- when you mark these references in the Bible you then can record what the Bible is saying about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- certainly in the times we are facing now, we need to see a clear vision of the Lord
- the book of 1 Thessalonians reveals to us a clear picture and teaching of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

a) God the Father

- God is described in Thessalonians as a sovereign God
- 1:3 – Paul thanks God for His work of _____ done among the Thessalonians
- 1:4 – the Lord _____ this church and has called this church
- 2:4, 5, 10 God tests hearts and God is witness
- Paul here reveals to us that the Lord is _____-knowing, revealing to us that nothing is hidden from the Lord
- God is a Holy God who hates sin
- 2:16 the wrath of God comes upon people
- 4:6 – the Lord is a God who avenges _____
- 5:23 – God is described as the God of peace meaning that he possesses peace and gives _____ to us through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ
- 5:24 – God is faithful, He will _____ His promises
- certainly the Lord can be _____ in the times that we are facing now!

- in 1 Thessalonians the Lord (God the Father) is described with these attributes: sovereign, gracious, all-knowing, faithful, and holiness

b) God the Son

- the person and _____ of the Lord Jesus dominates this letter
- as with all of Paul's letter's there is a focus upon the work of Jesus and thus the _____
- we certainly see in Thessalonians that Jesus is gracious and _____ to sinners
- we will focus more on the work of _____ under the gospel section!

c) God the _____ Spirit

- the work of the Holy Spirit is active in the book of 1 Thessalonians

1:5-6 – we see the _____ of the Holy Spirit in that He applies the gospel to sinful hearts

- as well, we can have joy in the Holy Spirit

4:8 – God gives to us His Holy Spirit

- the Holy Spirit is a gracious gift from God

- the Holy Spirit em_____ us to fight the battle of sexual sin

5:19 – the Holy Spirit is not to be quenched or the fire of the Spirit put out

- quenching the spirit is despising prophecies and the Word of God, but it as well, applies to _____ the work of the Holy Spirit in our sanctification process

2) Gospel

- three passages clearly teach us what the gospel, or the good _____, of Jesus Christ is all about!

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from _____ to serve the living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

- these three passages teach us four very important truths about the gospel

Four Important Truths about the Gospel

i. Jesus died.

- the death of Jesus is essential for the _____ of the gospel.

- why did Jesus have to die and why is this truth so important?

- the death of Jesus is important because it is the means that God uses to _____ us from sin

- Jesus takes the _____ of God on the Cross!

- Jesus takes the punishment of God for us so that we can be delivered from the _____ to come for our sin that we deserve to bear

ii. Jesus rose again.

- we know that Jesus did not stay _____, but was raised by God the Father

- this work of God reveals that God is _____ over death

- but this also applies to those who have _____ in Jesus Christ, so that we can have _____ life, escape death and have eternal life
- how can we have this glorious hope? Only because of the death and _____ of Jesus!

iii. Christ brings new life.

- we know that the _____ brings us from death to life, from darkness to light and from night to _____ (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5)
- but also the consequences of our sin is _____
- the punishment that we deserve for our sin is gone
- the _____ for our sin is gone
- the hostility between _____ and God is gone
- we are no longer _____ from God – we have new life in God

iv. Salvation cannot be earned.

- salvation cannot be earned it must be received by _____
- we see this not only clearly taught in 1 Thessalonians but all the New Testament
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14 – we believe
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 – we are _____ destined for wrath but to obtain salvation!

3) Glorious Hope

- of course when you think of 1 Thessalonians you will think of the wonderful _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ
- we know that Paul mentions the hope of the _____ many times
- 1:3 – they had a steadfastness of _____ in the Lord Jesus
- 1:10 – they were waiting for Jesus from heaven
- 2:19 the Thessalonians would be the _____, _____ and hope for Paul at the coming of the Lord Jesus
- but of course when we think of the hope in the Lord Jesus we think of the amazing passage in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
- Paul wrote this section because there were two main problems of bad theology in the Thessalonian church
 - 1) some thought that those who had died before the 2nd coming of Jesus were _____
 - 2) some were _____ about the timing of the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus

4:14 – we see the glorious promise that those who have fallen _____, God will bring them to heaven with him

4:17 – those who are left, those who are still _____, will rise up and always be with the Lord

5:10 – Jesus gives us this promise that we will always _____ with Him

- 1 Thessalonians explains to Christians what _____ life is all about
- eternal life is not just escaping this world to sit on clouds and play a harp
- but eternal life is life forever with Jesus Christ away from this body of sin and world of sin
- we will have the full _____ of His presence

4) Great Living in the Lord

- although the Thessalonian church had less problems than the other churches- we see in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:22, much like us, they had issues of _____ to work on

- here we see that we never reach a state of perfection but need to continue pressing on pressing on with the Lord!

4:1-2 We are called to live lives that _____ the Lord

4:3-8 We are called to live lives of holiness and lives of sexual _____

4:9-10 We are called to live lives of _____

4:11-12 We are called to live lives of respect in the world by being busy and not busy bodies

5:12-13 We are called to live lives that _____ church leadership

5:14-15 We are called to live lives that display the healthy church community

5:16-18 We are called to live lives of steadfast _____ and thankfulness

5:19-22 We are called to live lives that seek to discern _____ from the Word of God

5) God Centered Prayer

- the book of 1 Thessalonians gives us some great teaching on prayer!

5:17 – we are to pray without _____

- we see that Paul does practice what he _____ here

3:10 – Paul confesses to praying for this congregation _____ and day!

- furthermore we see that Paul models how we are to pray in this book

3:12-13 – we are to pray that our _____ grows more and more

- we are to pray that we would grow in holiness!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 give _____ in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - - and what do we see Paul doing throughout this book? Thanking the Lord!

- Paul thanks God _____ times (1:2; 2:13; 3:9-) for His work within the Thessalonians!

Application

1) Are you going to come to the lord like a peacock or a pitiful sinner?

- the book of Thessalonians makes a serious impression upon us that we cannot attain salvation on our _____ merits

- we cannot save ourselves by our own _____

- we are saved by grace _____ through _____ in Christ alone!

- we need to be reminded of what the Lord Jesus has said about an attitude of arrogance and _____ before the Lord

- simply put, there is no place for pride before the Lord

Luke 18:9-14 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who _____ himself will be exalted."

- do you see the two types of people here

1) the Pharisee that went before God with all the stuff he had done

- wow what a list of stuff, what a list of great accomplishments

- the Pharisee was so great he did not even need the grace of God

2) the Tax Collector went before God _____, he recognized his sin before a Holy God and cried out to God for mercy!

- _____ and crying out to God for mercy is a miraculous work from the Holy Spirit

- if you are in Jesus Christ, this is the attitude we ought to come to Christ with!

- it is His work that has accomplished salvation for us

- if you do not know the Lord Jesus, do not come to God parading like a _____

- don't come strutting your stuff before the Lord

- come before the Lord and cry out to Jesus to give you _____ and grace!

- receive Christ and trust in Christ and His wonderful work!

2) Hope in the Lord

- Ontarians are in full blown Covid-fatigue that is no secret
- some people are wondering if we will ever see normal ever again
- some people have hope that things will go back to normal
- but going back to pre-Covid normal is not a hope!
- the promise is given to the believer here, that we can have _____ everlasting
- that when we die, or when Jesus comes again, we can _____ with Christ forever
- we will be taken from this life of sin and have _____ life; a life without the sin and evil of this world!

- we know that this poor understanding of the _____ coming of Jesus was not resolved in 1 Thessalonians because Paul mentions the hope found in Jesus numerous times in 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,

- this is hope, this is joy, the _____ of being gathered to Jesus Christ!
Amen!

3) Live to Please the Lord

- like I have said I have talked to over 40 pastors in the last year
- Covid has exposes some serious flaws in the Canadian culture and exposed that many believers in Christ really _____ want to live for the Lord Jesus Christ
- this has left many pastors disturbed!
- if you have experienced the grace of Christ, if you have received Jesus Christ continue to _____ for Him!

Colossians 2:6-7 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

- I hope no one listening thinks they have received Christ Jesus and is not living to please the Lord Jesus
- let us be a people who _____ in Him and abound in Thanksgiving!

Coming up next week:
2 Thessalonians – Introduction