

"Is It Right To Take An Oath?"

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

August 11, 2013

C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 – 28)

Blamelessness Is Not A Secondary Issue But Must Be Primary To The Call Of God's People, (vs. 27-28)

Message Emphasis: Blamelessness is a high and difficult goal to achieve; ONLY by the grace of God can we hope to achieve what is laid before us. We should not abandon blamelessness as unattainable but pursue what Christ has promised to empower us; His continued grace.

27.1) Christ Has Sworn Each Of Us To Holiness

"I Put You Under Oath Before The Lord" – ¹⁾ "She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God ²⁾ and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ³⁾ but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.

⁴⁾ Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach." (1 Timothy 5:5-7, ESV)

- 1) The one who submits to their oath before the Lord
- 2) The selflessness of the one who submits to their oath before the Lord
- 3) The self-indulgence of the one who has abandoned their oath before the Lord
- 4) The requirement of the Lord's oath that produces holiness

*His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.*

27.2) Christ Has Instructed Each Of Us In Holiness

"Have This Read (Aor.Pas.Inf) To All The Brothers"

- "Read" – ἀναγινώσκω; *to know again... not my content but the content of the one writing*

¹⁾ "Therefore, holy brothers, ²⁾ you who share in a heavenly calling, ³⁾ consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ⁴⁾ who was faithful to him who appointed him..." (Hebrews 3:1-2, ESV)

- 1) Holiness is the identification that sets the believer apart – *"he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,"* (Colossians 1:22, ESV)
- 2) Holiness is the result of God's call NOT a program – *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,"* (Ephesians 4:1, ESV)
- 3) Christ is the ONLY true means of our holiness
 - a. Christ brings us the true message of holiness
 - b. Christ brings the ONLY means of holiness through His atonement

*In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me.*

- 4) Christ is the ONLY true example of what holiness is – *"The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood."* (Jhn7:18)

28.3) Christ Has Empowered Each Of Us Unto Holiness

"Grace Of Our Lord Be With You"

- "Grace" – χάρις *a favorable attitude toward someone or something – 'favor, good will*
- "Be" – μετά: *a marker of an associative relation, usually with the implication of being in the company of – 'with, in the company of, together with*

¹⁾ "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – ²⁾ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ³⁾ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-7, ESV)

- 1) What "Grace" is ...*God's rich mercy ...God's great love ...our deadness ...our made alive w/ Christ*
- 2) Where "Grace" Places Us ...*raised us to life... seated us with Christ*
- 3) How "Grace" Ultimately Shows Itself ...*in the coming age ...richness of God ...us in Christ*

*Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, Threaten the soul with infinite loss; Grace that is greater,
yes, grace untold, Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.*

*Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

***** The Question Is Not What Must I Do? Rather, What Must I Do To Be Saved? *****

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Him can you be truly blameless.

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:22, ESV)

1) "Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." **2)** ...But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" (Acts 19:13-15, ESV)

- 1) There is no substitute for personal holiness; you cannot skirt in on someone else's coattails.
- 2) Our ministry for Christ will be completely ineffective without our personal holiness.

*Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

- 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)