

**INTRODUCTION**

1. 2Thes 3:3-5 God's Preserving Grace & Xn's Perseverance.
  - i. v4 *we have confidence in the Lord* - [Ps 100:3].
  - ii. v4 *concerning you that you will do & will con't to do*

**1st: Paul Expects God to Preserve Christians & Christians to Persevere.**

1. God's sov'ty & man's responsibility are stitched together in Xn life.
2. Divine sovereign love explains a "Xn". Salvation by Triune God.
3. Disciple's submissive love explains a "Xn".
4. Why are you a Xn? "B/c God loves me!" B/c B/c I love Jesus." [1Jn 4:19; Jn 14:15; 15:10a].
5. Paul weaves divine preservation w/ disciple's perseverance. Context.
  - i. commends perseverance - 1:3,4
  - ii. preserving grace - 1:11-12 v3 *thank God for you - according to grace*
  - iii. preserving grace - 2:13-14 Panoramic vista of salvation
  - iv. call to persevere - 2:15
  - v. preserving grace - 2:16-17
  - vi. pray for preserving grace- 3:1-3
  - vii. preservation & perseverance - 3:4-5
  - viii. commands perseverance - 3:6 protect church [1Th 5:14; 2Th 3:14-15]
  - ix. commends preserving grace - 3:16 benedictory prayer
6. Live the Xn life - dutiful discipleship & dependent on Spirit - Phil 2:12-13
  - i. Jesus - [Jn 15:4-5]
  - ii. Paul - Col 1:29; Phil 4:13; Gal 2:20
  - iii. Peter - 1Pt 4:11
7. The life of faith - supernatural grace - Hab 2:4 - Hb 10:38. Hb 11

**2nd: Paul's Confidence in the Context of Persecution**

1. Paul is *confident*. Should he be? A 17:1-10 History of Paul in Thess.
2. He recalls ministry in 1Th 2 - tender mother & exhorting father. Also the opposition. His concern was assuaged by arrival of Tim - 1Thes 2:14-3:8.

**3rd: What Gave Paul Confidence?**

1. Reception of Word of God - 1Th 1:2-5a; 1Th 2:13; 2Th 3:4,6,12,14,17
2. Enduring persecution - 1Th 1:6; 2:14; 3:3; 3:7-8; 2Th 1:4-5
3. Churchmanship 1Th 1:1 - 1:3; 1:8; 2:14; 3:6; 4:9-10; 5:11-15; -- 2Th 1:1 - 1:2-4; 3:6 - v14 *associate* = social fellowship => rlnshp to the church
4. Confident in Lord 1Th 1:4; 4:8-9 taught to love; 5:9; 5:24 -- 2Th 3:4

**4th: Paul's Confidence in the Prospect of Final Judgment**

1. THE doctrinal emph re: 2nd coming & FJ. Practical instruction is given in view of coming of Jesus, FJ & eternity = evangelical rxn to opposition.
  - i. Paul knew *city authorities* complied w/ mob at instigation of those from synagogue, but not urge political rxn - persevere, Christ is coming
  - ii. Paul & church persecuted - 2 Thes 1:3-10 Day of judgment is at hand.
2. God's court-room - not try to get courts of men to justify us.
  - i. 1Th 1:9-10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18 [FJ]; 5:9 [contra 3:3]; 5:23
  - ii. 2Th [1:3-10 & 2:1-12 2nd coming & FJ]; 2:14
3. Are we hearing Xn "cultural influencers" advocate this approach?

**5th: Paul Expresses His Confidence Prayer**

1. Thanksgiving - 1Th 1:2; 2:13; 3:9; --- 2Th 1:3; 2:13
2. Entrusting to the Ld - 1Th 3:11-13; 5:23 --- 2Th 1:11-12; 2:16-17; 3:16,18

**Applic #1: Summarize Our Survey**

1. Review & recap sermon.
2. Why survey all this? So that Paul could say to us - 1Thes 1:7.
  - i. We should be both encouraged & challenged.
3. This is context to this evening's message - 2Th 3:3-5. [1Thes 5:23]. AMEN