

Pure Doctrine for Holy Living

Issues confronting the new church

- ▶ the nature of salvation
- ▶ holiness – Christianity in affliction

First lessons for the Church

- ▶ James – faith without works is dead
- ▶ Galatians – faith with works is dead
- ▶ Thessalonians – hope in afflictions

Second missionary journey – Acts 17:1-10 (11-14)

- ▶ Ministry in Thessalonica
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians

Outlines

- ▶ 2 Thessalonians
 1. Persecutions and tribulations (1)
 2. The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2)
 3. Church discipline (3)
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
 1. Greeting and invocation (1:1-2)
 2. Pastoral prayer – thanksgiving (1:3-4)
 3. The righteous judgment of God (1:5-10)
 4. Pastoral prayer – intercession (1:11-12)

1. Greeting and Invocation (1:1-2)

Paul, Silvanus, Timothy

Church in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

- ▶ Divine institution
- ▶ Priority of Jesus Christ

Grace and peace

- ▶ Common greeting – uncommon meaning
- ▶ Grace – a Christian distinctive
- ▶ Peace – a new relationship with God

2. Pastoral Prayer – Thanksgiving (1:3-4)

Thanks to God for growing faith and love

- ▶ Faith
 - access into Christianity (Galatians)
 - a body of truth received (Romans 10:17)
 - an activating principle (James)
 - growing
- ▶ Love
 - sums up all Christian virtue (J. Edwards)
 - love of God – priority of God; devotion to God
 - the New Commandment: love one another
 - growing

The missing virtue

- ▶ Fundamentals of the faith: faith, love, hope
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:13
- ▶ Hope
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:16
 - steadfastness is based upon hope
 - obstacles to hope
 - persecutions and afflictions
 - false doctrine
 - hope v. resignation or fatalism
 - steadfastness and faith

Boasting to the church = thanksgiving to God

3. The Righteous Judgment of God (1:5-10)

Evidence of the righteous judgment of God

- ▶ Steadfastness and faith in persecutions and afflictions

What is the righteous judgment of God?

- ▶ Is it the judgment of God upon sin?

1 Peter 3:18; Heb. 10:10; 2 Cor 5:21

- ▶ Is it judgment of God upon believers?

1 Peter 4:12-19; Ps. 44; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 12:7-10

Worthy of the kingdom of God

- ▶ Righteous judgment against sinners
- ▶ Righteous judgment ameliorated

The righteous judgment of God

- ▶ Repay with affliction
- ▶ Grant relief
- ▶ When Jesus Christ is revealed from heaven
- ▶ The day of wrath
 - flaming fire; inflicting vengeance
 - those who do not know God
 - those who do not obey Christ's Gospel
- ▶ Punishment of eternal destruction
 - away from the presence of the Lord and His glory
- ▶ The day of glory
 - Christ glorified in His saints
 - Christ marveled at by His saints

The proof of God's righteous judgment

- ▶ The purification of the saints in affliction
- ▶ The hope of the saints

4. Pastoral Prayer – Intercession (1:11-12)

To this end we always pray for you

- ▶ Be worthy of God's calling
- ▶ Resolve for good and every work of faith
- ▶ Glorify the name of the Lord Jesus

Worthy of the Kingdom of God

- ▶ Means – the sovereign power of God
- ▶ Obstacles
 - Persecutions and afflictions
 - False doctrine