



CAPITOL COMMISSION

LEADERSHIP DEMANDS BOLDNESS & PARTNERSHIPS!

JANUARY 27, 2010

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In the days of the upcoming weeks you will face adverse circumstances and trials that are beyond your ability to control. How will you handle adversity? If you are a believer in Jesus Christ you will spiritually grow through the divine trials God has orchestrated for your sanctification. If you have not considered the claims of Christ you will face these adversities with hostility and selfishness. You will ask yourself why? Why are these coming at me like unguided missiles?

Also, along with partnerships comes the commitment to not compromise. The political arena, as I have observed, is a field of compromise. There is a difference in compromising political ideology and biblical principles. You must evaluate these compromises. My prayer is that you never surrender biblical principles for political expediencies!

TEXT

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;

CIRCUMSTANCES CONFRONTING THESSALONICA:

On his second missionary journey, Paul and his traveling companions came to Thessalonica with one intent and that was to use the Scriptures to demonstrate that Jesus Christ had to suffer, die, and rise from the dead.

It was not Paul's own message of human wisdom, but the divine revelation—God's wisdom that Paul proclaimed. Paul's habit was to explain and give evidence that this Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Paul and his missionary companions, Silas and Timothy, were courageous men. They were bold and uncompromising in their message and method. They had just departed Philippi after a riot broke out resulting from their casting out a demon from a slave girl who had brought her master much profit and an income (Acts 16:16-40).

If people are to impact the world it will be accomplished by boldness to confront and the courage to count the cost. The issues of this life did not matter to the Apostle Paul—

Acts 20:22-24 And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul was also driven by an inner desire to see his countrymen come to Christ and be saved.

Romans 9:1-3; 10:1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, . . . Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

Paul's own countrymen had brought him much pain. Just read 2 Corinthians 11:22-33. Every vile trial and circumstance brought upon Paul fostered within him boldness and courage.

Thessalonica like any city today had its difficulties. People resolute in their own religion will always live out their beliefs. Several circumstances dominated the church at Thessalonica. First was the area of sexual promiscuity verses a life of chastity. Thus there was the pressure of a new believer to fall into the trap that sexual relations were the common practice of the day. Sound familiar? Sound like today's society? Christianity is applied purity in practice.

Another circumstance plaguing the church was the issue of the second coming of Christ. They were slothful in their daily living in light of the second coming of Christ. They had stopped working because of their expectation that Christ's immediate return was imminent. Honest living and hard work are the instructions from First Thessalonians—

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAY @ 8:30, BLATT BUILDING RM. 317
STAFF: MONDAY @ 12:00PM, BLATT BUILDING RM. 318

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your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

The RSV ends “and be dependent on nobody.” What a statement today in America when everyone is looking to others to provide their needs. Many look to government to provide their needs and receive something for doing nothing. The Scripture says work—work hard and provide for yourselves and others. If you don’t work, you don’t eat. Many would do well to implement this principle in their own life.

Christianity is not a religion of how one “ought to live life” but a religion of “how to live” a God-honoring life. All other religions of the world tell us how we “ought to live,” to be moral. Christianity applies the Scriptures and teaches us how we are to live our daily lives among other people.

Another difficulty was that of physical death and bodily resurrection. The appearing of our Lord in the future caused many to become concerned about those who were in the grave and their gathering together with the Lord. This book closes by dealing with eschatology—a study of end times and the sequences that are to take place: 1) the coming wrath (1:10; 5:9); 2) Christ’s return (2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23); 3) the rapture of the church (4:13–18); and 4) the meaning and time of the Day of the Lord (5:1–11).

COMPANIONS FOR THE MISSION:

Our text opens with Silas and Timothy accompanying Paul on their journey to Thessalonica. Silas, most likely, was a Hellenistic Jew and a leader within the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:40). He also was the amanuensis of Peter to compose his First Epistle (1 Peter 5:12).

Timothy was Paul’s child and protégé in the faith. He was near and dear to Paul because of his faithfulness in service to the Apostle. Timothy accompanied Paul on his 2nd and 3rd missionary trips and became a close confidant while Paul was imprisoned in Rome (cf. Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1; Philem. 1). He also ministered in Ephesus and was also imprisoned. Timothy was the messenger who returned on Paul’s behalf to Thessalonica, bringing a progress report as to the stability of the church that remained (1 Thessalonians 3:5-6).

Paul had partnered with two very qualified men. These men were dependable, men of exceeding character, and men of high reputation. These were men who traveled to Thessalonica from Philippi after being seized, beaten, and placed into stocks. They survived an earthquake that provided their freedom. They journeyed 100 miles in two days. They were real men.

These are the types of companions you need in your life! Have you surrounded yourself with men and women that possess these types of qualities? You need them for the journey of “leadership during difficult days.” Yes, there will be difficult circumstances and hardships even from your own political party. Have you partnered with dependable people of character that will stay by your side through thick and thin?

Not only do you need men and women of character, you need a church that will stand by and support you through the toughest of times. They need to be the folks that uphold your arms in prayer through the harshest battles. You must partner in a solidarity fashion with these types of people.

We as a ministry would delight in nothing more than to come alongside you and assist in the encouragement process. We would delight in nothing more than to pray for you and counsel you in what the Scriptures have to say about the trials and circumstances you are dealing with. If we can serve or minister in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

You also need your church, pastors, church leaders, and church congregants upholding you in prayer and challenging you for the tasks at hand. Just as Paul and his team needed the Thessalonica congregation, so do you also. You need church men and women who are called by God and have evidenced that transformation for the world to see. The true church imitates the Lord and sets an example for others to follow.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-6 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

What examples are you exhibiting for your associates to observe? Are you an imitator of the Lord and Paul who suffered at the hands of their haters? You may be hated for your uncompromising stance from your own political party. How will you respond? Will you respond as the Lord Jesus responded? Or will you respond selfishly?