

Despiseth Not Man but God

1 Thessalonians 3:13 – 4:8

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~ In our contemporary age of selfie-sophistication and self-professed superiority, the acceptance of permissiveness, promiscuousness, sexually-oriented thinking, and perverted innuendo has resulted in a class of degenerate morons; cretins who have become deeply-imbedded in society – in the community, in the workplace, in the market and schools – even amongst the very young social crowd – all manner of deviant behavior is breeding. Our world is edging on an almost total and complete breakdown of morals and ethics as a result. Even some Christians seem perfectly comfortable engaging in activities that would not have even been discussed just twenty-five years ago; and that has affected and infected all walks of global society with the virus of vice. A profoundly diseased philosophy has “*come out*” from secrecy and privatization into an affluent modern world disguised as normal. Young, old, rich, poor – whatever nationality you claim – divorce, drunkenness, and all manner of adultery have assaulted Christian lives; to the point of becoming alarming. Everyone seems to be claiming Jesus – but I don’t see Jesus claiming very many people. Many are called – few are chosen. Hiding behind a false façade of religious rationalization won’t do any good. If you are living in sin, you can expect no answers from Heaven regarding your problems in this world. Until you are willing to believe they, in fact, are sins – and then confess those sins in prayer and repent from them. Until then, your life will decay and dissolve. You can just write that down, my friends. Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery, “*go and sin no more....*” Well, that’s exactly what He meant....

III

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

~ We finished our last report a hastily. This is a very difficult epistle to teach – because too much can be said, while leaving critical things unsaid –

very difficult. I think all credible schools of prophetic interpretation agree that the saints – *ALL* saints – will be returning with the Lord Jesus Christ when He establishes His Millennial Kingdom here on earth after the Great Tribulation period is ended. That’s what Paul said in this verse, and it is how we learned it in Isaiah. Personally, I believe that is when our judgment by Christ Jesus as Christians for our works in this life is meted out; because this also seems to indicate that our rewards are not rendered by Jesus until that time when the rebellion has been dashed like a potters vessel by His rod of iron and His treading out the winepress –alone. That’s what the Bible teaches, my friends. Those who disagree are just going to have to remain wrong – because God says they are wrong right here in His Word.

The naturally logical progressive question would be: when does Christ present us as holy and without spot, wrinkle, or blemish to the Father? Does that happen at the rapture, or later when He returns to establish His Kingdom? Well, that’s highly dependant on our translation of verse thirteen because *ALL* means “*all*” to me – some means “*some*” and – well, and so on. “*At the coming....*” Literally means “*at an epiphany....*” The Lord Jesus broke through and shined His Holy Face upon humanity with His presence when He was born in Bethlehem. This can also be used in connection with the rapture, and with Christ’s second coming to establish His Kingdom down here, but you’ll have to add *glory* to the latter two. All three of those events either were, are or will be, a shining through of revelation – but in myriad different ways. That’s what we’re talking about when we speak of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ Immanuel.

Alright, the Book of Revelation means “*the unveiling.*” The same Greek word is used in verse thirteen here translated “*....at the coming....*” The difference is that when Jesus came to the earth two thousand plus years ago, it was not an unveiling. His glory remained behind in Heaven in the tabernacle of old in the holy of holies. There was no glory to show forth in Christ’s humanity. Isaiah said exactly that in chapter fifty-three of his prophecy. So, Christ’s glory did not show forth in His earthly ministry, because He didn’t have it with Him down here. When Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, His glory will shine so bright most people will not be able to look upon it. See, friends, “*to the end*” means love is not an end, in itself. *Holiness* is the end result in the eternal life of a believer, which will

not be fully attained until the return of Christ — in glory! “...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.” I recognize this is difficult to understand. However, I cannot tell you how vitally important it is to know and practice these things at all times. If we don’t, then we have no witness or testimony. We should pray Christ will live holy through us in the presence of other people, but we must also be holy and righteous in the *absence* of other people; because God is always present....

IV

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

~ The Ten Commandments have no part in salvation. No, we’re called to a *MUCH* higher level of living than the Mosaic System, friends. The Ten Commandments are not the standard for Christian living and conduct, either. Jesus said, “*a new commandment I give unto you....*” Paul said, “...*esteem every man better than yourself.*” Well, if you implement that principle in your life, the Ten Commandments won’t be a problem for you, I assure you of that. If man could not keep the Ten Commandments – and he can’t – and Israel couldn’t, and didn’t, either – then how can man keep the new and higher commandments Jesus gave? There’s only one way: by considering the welfare of others above your own. You won’t attain that living on your own, friends. This can be attained only by an outside power – the Spirit of God living through us.

This is the spiritual walk – the walk of the believer – and it is all important. Paul mentions it again in verse twelve. The spiritual walk is a parenthesis around this entire section of Scripture that deals with election according to the foreknowledge of God, the rapture of the church, and the second coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom. These are doctrines so deep a poor Bible teacher like me has tremendous difficulty articulating them. Maybe you don’t? Well, either way, I do know this: a truly born again and genuinely converted Christ-loving child of God cannot do as he pleases in

this world; because that's impossible –he does as Christ pleases – or he doesn't do anything worthwhile for the cause of Christ....

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

~ "Sanctification" does *NOT* mean we reach a sinless state of perfection in this flesh. Sanctification means that we have been set apart for the use of God. "Perfection" in Scripture, likewise, means "mature." Sinless perfection of this body of flesh is never implied or eluded to in any manner in the Word of God. When the Scriptures speak of "those holy men" – well, they didn't seem very holy to me, according to Scriptural standards. It seems God is being charitable in that assessment. Moses had murder and mayhem in his past. King David – you know the story. Job was confused; and proud of it. Jonah went the wrong way altogether, and Peter denied Jesus three times. Certainly a Christian must desire to strive for holiness; but we must recognize we can only ever be sanctified if we are in the direct will of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That comes first, my beloved. Being set aside for the use of God is a high state of being that very few – and I do mean *VERY* few – are chosen for. Interestingly, we'll never be sinlessly perfect until we are called up to meet Christ in the air in the rapture of the church. Turn that all over in your minds a few times and see what you come up with. There is no bottom to the ocean our safari is sailing on today....

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

~ The pagan world in Thessalonica, at the time in which we are studying in our Spiritual Safari, had religion, sex, idolatry, and heathen philosophy inextricably intertwined. You would have found that mix in Corinth, also. Paul tells them to cease immediately; and start living a life that commends the Gospel. Loose living amongst believers today does more harm to the cause of Christ than any worldly, atheistic, otherwise rejecting, or even satanic cults do. You *CANNOT* – you *WILL* not – serve God living in open sin.

You can just write that down. Honesty, truthfulness, and the absence of gossip, are non-negotiable hallmarks of a genuine child of God. Christ must be a reality that works Himself out through justice, integrity, and honesty in the life of a believer. You just happen to be reading the writings of one of them. *NOTHING* will affect your life quite like looking for the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to take His church out of the world. The rapture is not a doctrine to argue – it's a doctrine by which to live eternally....

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

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