

Transparent Living

I Thess 2: 1-12

Transparent Living

- We must review this passage in its context
 - Paul and Silas are now on the 2nd missionary journey
 - They had just returned from the Jerusalem conference with the following directives
 - Acts 15: 22-29
 - On their journey Paul received the Macedonian vision
 - They proceed to Philippi (Acts 16)
 - Where a church is established and.....

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- As usual with Paul, persecution arises.....
 - Paul rebuked an evil spirit in a slave girl
 - Resulting in her owners losing financial gain
 - Paul and Silas are taken into custody
 - Where they are beaten with rods
 - Thrown into jail their feet in stocks
 - At midnight while they are singing hymns
 - The doors of the jail are thrown open
 - Their chains were loosed
 - And the jailer drew his sword to commit suicide

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- Paul and Silas stop him
 - The jailer takes them to his own home
 - He, the jailer and all his household are baptized
- Paul demands transparency as a Roman
 - A public apology is offered, and Paul and Silas leave for Thessalonica.....
- Acts 17: 2....Paul goes to Thessalonica
 - Paul and Silas stay for only 3 weeks
 - Persecution again breaks out
 - Paul and Silas leave for Berea

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- One year later Paul is writing this letter to the fledgling church
- There are phrases used that we should note
 - First....."you know" or a derivative of this
 - Vs 1; 2; 9; 10 and 11
 - Second.....the use of the word "God"
 - Vs 2....boldness in God; gospel of God
 - Vs 4....but God
 - Vs 8 and again in Vs 9...gospel of God
 - Vs 10....the witness of God
 - Vs 12....walk in a manner worthy of God

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- In our passage today we have the whole sum of Christian living
 - You will note.....
 - In accordance with the directives of Jerusalem
 - No specific regulations or rules are laid out
 - The simplicity of the Christian life is laid out in Vs 12
- “that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory”

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- This concept is found throughout the Bible
 - Lev 11: 45; Lev 19: 2; Lev 20: 7 (Old Testament)
 - Phil 1: 27; Eph 4: 1-3; Eph 5: 1-5; 9-16 (N.T.)
- This is the “gospel of God”
 - Throughout the Bible, God is always looking for a consecrated people
- Not through the letter of the law or rules
- But through a dedicated heart

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- Question.....
 - Is there anything more God-like than righteousness and love?
- Eph 5: 1....."imitators of God and walk in love"
- Let us think about this for a moment.....
 - I am to be an imitator of God????
- This is a perfect law of perfect freedom
 - Whenever I am faced with temptation
 - The answer is already established

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- Whenever I am faced with difficulty
 - The answer is already clarified
 - Note Vs 2-3
 - Opposition to truth does not negate truth
 - Note vs 4....
 - I am not concerned with pleasing men
 - I am very concerned with the God who examines my heart
- Vs 5.....I have no other motivation
 - That allows me to discern truth from error
 - That which sounds so appealing or pleasing to the flesh??

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- Vs 6....I have no need for the flattery of men
 - I am not behind this pulpit to please you
 - I am not here to entertain you
 - I have one purpose and that is to please God
- That my friends is a freeing aspect in ministry
 - And it is true for every single one of us
- Vs 7....I am to be gentle
 - Jesus is called "the Good Shepherd" for a reason

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- Vs 9.....I labor through hardship and trial
 - Why?
 - It is not to please you, but to be found faithful
- Vs 10.....my life is to be lived in transparency
 - Oh....that causes me consternation???
 - Not if you and I are living to please God
- Vs 11.....I want to live a life of encouragement
 - Why???
 - “Some poor sinking struggling seaman, you may rescue, you may save”.

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- Vs 12.....who calls you into His own kingdom and glory
 - My wife and I just returned from a trip
 - She is a professional suitcase packer
 - There is nothing that we would need for the journey
 - That she did not prepare for.
- I want my life to be one preparation for the journey into His kingdom
 - That is what this Christian life is all about
 - Getting ready for glory

Lord Prepare Me

Lord Prepare Me

- Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
- Pure and holy tried and true
- With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
- Sanctuary for You

Lord Prepare Me

- It is You Lord who came to save
- The heart and soul of every man
- It is You Lord who knows my weakness
- Who gives me strength with Thine own hand

Lord Prepare Me

- Lead me on Lord from temptation
- Purify me from within
- Fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit
- Take away all my sin