

The Supernatural Work of God in Salvation

1Thessalonians 1:1-2:16

Part 2

Introduction

1. Confidence in the NT documents: Pointers to the authenticity of the Christian message (1Cor.15:16; Acts 4:3; 5:18; 4:18; 7:54ff; 8:1;)
 1. Jesus' crucifixion was either in AD 30 or AD.33
 2. Dates of the NT letters and Mark
 - 1+2 Thessalonians (about AD.49-51), and,
 - Mark's Gospel (the earliest of the Gospels) written in the mid to late 50's AD)

When we are dealing with atheists; people from other faiths; or, materialists
2. Paul's evangelistic practice in the early church
 1. Paul understood the belief systems of those he was trying to reach, and tailored his presentation of the gospel accordingly (Acts 17:2ff, 16ff)
 1. We need to understand the worldview of those with whom we are working
 2. Interacting with them in a relational way (being loving and gracious)
 3. In our conversation, we interact with them around two fundamental questions!
 1. What do you believe?
 2. Why do you believe what you believe?
 4. Our purpose and aim, is to demolish their world-view
 2. Note that Paul appealed to the mind of his hearers (Acts 17:2-3)
3. Non-authentic marks of being a Christian (Matt.7:15-23)

1. The nature of the Gospel (1Thess.1:5)
 1. The gospel means, "the Good News"
 2. The Gospel originated with God (1Thess.2:2,8,9)
 3. The subject of the Gospel is Jesus Christ (1Thess.3:2; 2Thess.1:8)
 4. The message of the Bible
 1. The message of the Bible is the gospel (Gen.3:15-Rev.22; Lk.24:25-27; Jn.5:39-40; Lk.24:44)
 2. The gospel often occurs in summary form in the Bible (2Tim.2:8; 1:8b-10; Rom.1:2-4; 1Cor.15:3-5)
 1. A basic summary (1Thess.1:10; 2Tim.2:8)
 2. A more developed summary: (2 Tim.1:8-10; Rom.1-8)
 5. There is only one Gospel; and it is a specific and well-defined message (Gal.1:6-9; Jn.8:56; Rom.4:3; Gal.3:1-25; 3:6-9)

2. Our natural response to the Gospel
 1. The world rejects the gospel (John 1:10-11)
 2. People will not be converted through the eloquence, wisdom, natural ability or the personality of the person sharing the gospel (1Cor.2:1-4a)
3. The God ordained necessity of proclaiming the gospel (1Thess.2:2b-4)
 1. People are not going to get saved apart from hearing the message of the gospel (Acts 17:2-3; 1Thess.1:5; Rom.10:14)
 2. God purposefully empowers us for Gospel proclamation (1Thess.2:2; Matt.28:18-20)
 3. The gospel must be communicated despite the opposition (1Thess.2:2b)
 4. God's motives must be the basis for gospel proclamation (1Thess.2:3)
 5. We are entrusted with the gospel (1Thess.2:4a)
 1. Paul was approved by God (Acts 26:15-18; Acts 9:27-29; 13:2; 15:40; 1Cor.15:3; 11:2,23; Jude 3)
 1. Paul was called directly by God to be an apostle, and to preach the gospel (Acts 26:15-18)
 2. Paul was accredited by the other apostles (Acts 9:27-29; 13:2; 15:40)
 3. Paul and his team taught the apostolic gospel—the gospel committed to them by Jesus (1Cor.15:3; 11:2,23; Jude 3)
 4. Paul challenged people to follow him, only, as he followed Christ (1Cor.11:1)
 2. Entrusted with the gospel (1Tim.6:20; 2Tim.1:12-14)
 1. There is no greater treasure than the gospel
 2. The gospel has been entrusted to us
 3. The gospel is to be “guarded” from corruption in any form
 4. Guarding the gospel requires human commitment and divine enabling (2Tim.1:14)
4. A supernaturally empowered response to the gospel
 1. The term, “the word of God” stresses the fact that the word of the Lord is divine and not the product of human wisdom (1Thess.2:13)
 2. The communication of the gospel, accompanied by the supernatural working of the Spirit, is essential for true conversion (1Thess.1:5; Jn.16:7-11)

Conclusion