

The Supernatural Work of God in Salvation

1Thessalonians 1:1-2:16

Part 4

Introduction

1. Confidence in the NT documents (1Thess. AD 49)
2. Paul's evangelistic practice in the early church
 1. Understood the belief systems of those he was trying to reach, and tailored his presentation of the gospel accordingly (Acts 17:2ff, 16ff)
 2. We noted that Paul appealed to the mind not the emotions of his hearers (Acts 17:2-3)
3. Non-authentic marks of being a Christian (Matt.7:15-23)
4. The nature of the gospel: It originated with God; the subject of the gospel is Jesus's Person and work; and the gospel is, the grand message of the whole of the Bible
5. Our natural response to the gospel is one of outright rejection
6. People will not be converted through the natural ability of the person sharing the gospel (1Cor.2:1-4a)
7. God ordained the necessity of proclaiming the gospel (1Thess.2:2b-4)
 1. People are saved through hearing the message of the gospel (Acts 17:2-3; 1Thess.1:5; Rom.10:14); so, God purposefully empowers us for Gospel proclamation (1Thess.2:2; Matt.28:18-20) and enables us to be faithful despite opposition (1Thess.2:2b)
 2. God's motives must be the basis for all gospel proclamation (1Thess.2:3-12); and we, with the help of the Spirit are, entrusted with the gospel, for its proclamation and purity (1Thess.2:13a; 1Tim.6:20; 2Tim.1:12-14)
8. We considered the divine nature of the gospel (1Thess.1:5; 1Thess.2:13) to which our Lord and the apostles testify (1Thess.2:13; Rom.3:2; Jn.17:8,6)
9. The communication of the gospel (the word of God) in and of itself, does not bring about salvation (1:5) which is most clearly evident in the life of our Lord Jesus (Jn.5:39-40; Jn.1:10-11)
 1. What has to take place in order for a person to be saved? (1Thess.1:4-5)
 2. When did the choosing take place, and who did the choosing? (Eph.1:4-5; 2Tim.1:9; Rom.9:10-12) (see too Mal.1:2-3; Gen.25:23-26:5)
 3. How are the chosen brought to faith?
 1. The Father gives the elect to the Son (Jn.17:2,6,9,24; 6:37-39; 6:43-44; 10:29)
 2. The Son dies for the chosen (Jn.17:19; 10:14-18), and,
 3. The ministry of,
 1. The Holy Spirit is to bring glory to Jesus (Jn.16:13-14)
 2. To bring conviction of sin and judgment (Jn.16:7-11)
 3. To sovereignly bring about the rebirth in the elect (Jn.3:5-8; 6:35-44)
 4. Why are some chosen? (Eph.1:4-5; 1:9,11)
1. **The practical outworking of a supernatural response to the Gospel (1Thess.1:9-10)**
 1. **They abandoned idols (1Thess.1:9)**
 1. "They tell how you turned...from idols" (1:9)
 1. God chooses them, and because they are chosen, "they" respond
 2. Illustration
 3. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 1. The impossibility of the situation (4:3-4)

2. The outcome of gospel proclamation attended by the Spirit (4:6)
 1. Paul refers to the creation story in Gen.1:2-3
 2. Conversion
3. The response to the opening of their eyes (4:5)

2. "They tell how you turned...from idols"

1. They were enabled to see the true nature of idols
2. Illustrations
 1. Zacchaeus the hated chief tax-collector (Lk.19:1-10)
 2. Jn.17:8

2. They embraced the living and true God (1Thess.1:9-10)

Note 1.

1. "The Living God"
2. "True God"

Note 2.

1. His Person (1:10; 1Cor.15:14-19)
2. His work (1:10)

Note 3 The nature of the service (1:9)

Note 4. Three important aspects of the service (1Thess.1:3)

1. "Your work produced by faith" (1Thess.1:3; Matt.7:15-23; Jms.2:18; Rom.3-8)
2. "Your labor prompted by love" (1Thess.1:3)
 1. The labour is a result of love (1:3)
 2. Love that is *not* theoretical but practical and sacrificial
 3. The "Labour"-Lit. "Toil"-"toilsome effort" (1:3)
3. "Your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1:3)
 1. "Endurance"
 2. Biblically, "hope" in the Bible is not wishful thinking but a confident expectation in what is to come
 3. Jesus is the object of this hope—the hope of His second coming

3. They became ambassadors of Christ (1:6,7,8)

Note 1. The Thessalonian Christians imitated the Lord (1:6)

Note 2. The Thessalonian Christians imitated the apostles in as far as the apostles imitated the Lord (1:6)

Note 3. The Thessalonian Christians, as imitators of the Lord and the apostles; became a model to those in Macedonia and Achaia (equivalent to modern day Greece) and beyond (1:7-8)

Note 4.

Conclusion