

## Called Into His Kingdom; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

### I. Our Call

- A. We are called into the Kingdom by God
- B. He wants us here (let that sink in a moment)
  - 1. The Mighty God, Creator, Sustainer, Author of Life
  - 2. He is without beginning nor end
  - 3. Yet this Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent God wants us to be with Him
  - 4. He calls us
- C. 1 Peter 5:10 (ESV); And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (ESV); <sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
- E. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (ESV); <sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- F. It is the Gospel that calls us — It is the Gospel we walk in (a manner worthy)
- G. We are called to help each other walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel

### II. Exhort

- A. “We exhorted each one of you,” 1 Thessalonians 2:12a
- B. To ask to come and be present, to call to one’s side <sup>1</sup>
  - 1. We must be ‘present’ Christians
    - a) Jesus summons us to His side just as Paul summoned the Ephesian Elders in Acts 28:20, “I have asked to see you”
    - b) Being present doesn’t just mean we are in the general area where Jesus is
  - 2. To summon to one’s aid, call upon for help <sup>2</sup>
    - a) We are called for a purpose — to live our lives for Jesus
    - b) To take up our cross (die to ourselves) daily
  - 3. Being present involves all aspect of our being
    - a) Our physical bodies must live in accordance to our calling (the Gospel)
    - b) Our mental attitudes must reflect that of our calling (the Gospel)
    - c) Our spiritual mindset must agree with our calling (the Gospel)
  - 4. We must be present!
- C. To urge strongly, appeal to, urge, exhort, encourage <sup>3</sup>
  - 1. This is one of the reasons we are ‘present’ this morning
  - 2. Sunday mornings is important — it is our spiritual worship to God
  - 3. We also must encourage one another every day — all the more as you see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:25)
- D. As Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to be present in their Christianity, so we must exhort one another

### III. Encourage

- A. Console, cheer up <sup>4</sup> — comfort

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 764–765.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 769.

- B. Romans 12:15 (ESV); Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- C. Empathy — experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another <sup>5</sup>
- D. This takes an investment
  - 1. We must invest ourselves in the lives of others
  - 2. No more hiding in our homes
  - 3. We must be part of each others' lives
  - 4. Acts 2:42–47 (ESV); <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
  - 5. The church flourished (in part) because they were part of each other
  - 6. They (in parts) created a whole church — and they knew they could not function to their fullest without each other
- E. 1 Corinthians 12:14-25
- IV. Charge
  - A. To affirm with solemnity, testify, bear witness, insist, implore as a matter of great urgency <sup>6</sup>
  - B. This is an official statement of testimony
  - C. We find it only 5 times in the New Testament and every other time it is translated 'testify(ing)'
    - 1. We may not understand the solemnity and importance that Paul is trying to get across because of the translation
    - 2. Witnesses in court proceedings give testimony (after they have been sworn in)
    - 3. If you commit perjury you are guilty of a crime
    - 4. Paul wants their lives to testify about the Christ
    - 5. "Charged you to walk (live) in a manner worthy of God" verse 12
  - D. As the definition suggests, this is a matter of great importance
    - 1. Our lives have a great affect on the choices of others
    - 2. 1 Thessalonians 2:5–7 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.
    - 3. Our lives (as well as our words) are the testimony that people see
    - 4. So walk in a manner worthy of God
- V. Called
  - A. The Gospel of Christ calls us to God
  - B. We must be present (in the Gospel)
  - C. We must share our lives (in the Gospel)
  - D. We must live our lives according to the Gospel

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<sup>5</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

<sup>6</sup> William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 619.

