

Sermon Summary 05/10/2015

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 3:5 “May the Lord Direct Your Hearts to the Love of God” by Drew Hunter

In Short: Paul is convinced that, like us, what the Thessalonians need most is for their hearts to be directed toward God, which is something that only God can do.

Sunday's Outline

I. What do we need?

- A. Our hearts need to be comforted (2:16-17). Just as God comforts our hearts, so we should comfort and encourage others.
- B. Our hearts need to be established (2:17) so we can endure difficulty and persecution.
- C. Our hearts need to be directed (3:5) toward God and the steadfastness of Christ. Otherwise, our hearts will be directed at other things in this world.

II. Why do we need this?

- A. We are called to comprehensive Christian obedience.
- B. We must have proper, God-honoring motives for obedience in our heart.

III. How does this become a reality?

- A. *Only* God can do it.
- B. He does this through His Word
 - 1. Personally – we must be in the Word ourselves on a regular basis
 - 2. Relationally – we must speak the Word to each other in our conversations
 - 3. Corporately – our corporate gatherings are a place where God uses His Word to change us and direct our hearts toward Him.

Quotations

“This is that single, and only, and all sufficient direction Paul gives them unto all obedience: to have their hearts guided into God’s love.” -Thomas Goodwin

“A heart inflamed with [God’s] love will do or suffer anything.” -Thomas Goodwin

“How does God bring people to obey Him? He first convinces them that He loves them.” -Walter Marshall

Help for Understanding & Application

1. What is the significance of Paul using the word “hearts” in this benediction? What aspects of our being all fit under the umbrella term “hearts”?
2. Explain what Paul means he asks God to “direct your hearts” to the love of God. Why do our hearts need to be directed? What is your heart most commonly directed to when it’s not directed to the love of God?
3. Scripture tells us clearly that God loves us (presently, ongoing, and since the beginning). Why does Paul use the past tense “loved us” in 2:16?
4. Share a time when the Lord used our corporate Sunday gathering to direct your heart to Him.