

"Your salvation is not evidenced through a prayer, or profession or performance. Your salvation is evidenced through persevering faith and the fruit that produces..."

PULPIT CURRICULUM

CHRIST'S RETURN - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-12

(PART 1)

1. REVIEW

It is important for a Christian to regularly examine if he or she is truly in the faith. Why are profession, a prayer, or performance insufficient as evidence of true salvation? What are some things that should be considered instead? _____

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12. The Thessalonian believers were suffering, yet it didn't change the reality that God is inherently, entirely, and infinitely fair. How is it that God can still be fair in spite of injustice? _____

How does that suffering produce evidence of true salvation? _____

2. ASSESS

What do you personally point to as the evidence that you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? Based on what you've read and heard, is it the right evidence? _____

One of the most obvious evidences of Christ working in your life - of true salvation - is increasing love. If someone asked you and/or your loved ones if you've increased in love in the past year, what would be said? _____

What examples would be brought up and pointed to? _____

3. APPLY

The aim for a Christian is to be considered worthy of the kingdom of God; and preparation for the kingdom comes through persevering faith that grows in love.

The aim this week is to identify a specific action step you can take to combat the formulaic, western culture Gospel that requires nothing of you. Biblical love by its definition requires sacrifice. What will you do each day through faith in God's strength to produce the love that evidences your faith? _____

Which member of your small group will follow up with you? Write down a specific time to follow-up. _____

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast;
Man never is, but always to be blessed..." – Alexander Pope

Christ's return means:
1A) God's justice is coming. vv.5-6

Your salvation is not evidenced through prayer or profession or even performance. Your salvation is evidenced through persevering faith and the fruit that produces.

The central, singular evidence of persevering faith is increasing love.

2A) My suffering is temporary. v.7a

The hardest moments of persevering faith are the highest moments of injustice.

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

READ 2 Corinthians 13:5

What I learned (observation/interpretation): _____

How I will respond (application): _____

DAY 2

READ Philippians 2:12-18

What I learned: _____

How I will respond: _____

DAY 3

READ Romans 8:18

What I learned: _____

How I will respond: _____

DAY 4

READ 1 Peter 4:12-19

What I learned: _____

How I will respond: _____

DAY 5

READ 1 Corinthians 2:9

What I learned: _____

How I will respond: _____

To learn more about studying the Bible, look for the "Essentials of Growing in Christ" class starting soon at your campus.