Motivations for Holy Conduct (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

Tony Mauck · 1 Thessalonians 4:1

INTRODUCTION

- Alienated, hostile in mind, we start at the position in our sin of utter helplessness.
- That God showed favor where none was deserved. That God wanted to love me and has loved me despite my foolishness.
- There is yet another powerfully motivating thing and the message of the gospel designed to produce a certain response in us. And that is the wrath of God.

1 Motivating Admonitions in the Scripture

Ephesians 5:5–6; Colossians 3:5–6; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10

- For because of these things, the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- Disobedience is a big deal. I know there's forgiveness. I know the love and grace and mercy of God is there to cover our sin. But not if people just persist in going that way.
- The wrath of God is going to be demonstrated against the sons of disobedience. Those are not empty threats.
- For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come.
- Waiting on Jesus to return from heaven. Who delivers us from the wrath to come.

2 The Benefit of Trembling

Philippians 2:12–13

- He trembled. He was shaken by the prospect that he was not right before God.
- A lot of folks never get beyond the trembling because they're not ready to give up the throne.
- How long has it been since you trembled? As you thought about the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience, and that God is consuming.
- We've got some activity that we must engage in to be righteous and exercise self-control and to avoid the judgment to come.
- You're not all by your lonesome, because it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

3 Life's Ultimate Choice: Refreshing or Wrath

Acts 3:19–23

- As long as you have life and breath, it is a choice between refreshing and wrath.
- Repent, that your sins might be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

- Every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.
- Refuse. And the soul remains unsaved and unfilled. That's not good either. Embrace. And joys emanate from his throne.
- If we are spiritually sluggish as his audience was, find ourselves in the doldrums and find ourselves walking where sin's allurement is, do not discount the very real and motivating wrath of God.

THE CHALLENGE

Does this message motivate you to save yourself by the grace and mercy of God and in fear of the wrath of God? Recognizing your utter helplessness to do this without Him.

MY NOTES