

The Presumptuous Security of Sloppy Salvation

(2 Thes. 2:13-15; 3:6-15)

Clarifying the BIG HOPE of our salvation:

1. Resting presumptuously on “escape” is another gospel! (2:13)

The purpose of salvation consists of significantly more than escape/deliverance from the coming wrath – it anticipates so loving the truth that its attendant believing acceptance plays out in a particular lifestyle, a living out of all the call into Christ’s family entails – including many trials!

The content of the “*sanctifying work of the Spirit*” is ... whatever it takes for the Holy Spirit to make your external and internal world increase your spiritually excellent usefulness in this present life and for the life to come.

While the salvation of Christ does save us from ultimate destruction, it first saves us from sin and self so we can increasingly be like Jesus before we meet him face to face!

This is how you were saved →

You were chosen! 2:13

God set you apart and set you up to believe.

2. Resting presumptuously on “chosen/election” is reckless! (2:13)

From our human perspective, we are not meant to see the hope of our salvation secure in the Divine choice in eternity past to save us but rather in the real time, ongoing action of “*belief in the truth*” – hearing God’s call to welcome the truth and living it daily. It was that action that effected saving faith and that action that secures the genuineness of Christian life.

Our calling (choosing) is only as legitimate as our believing; our believing is only as legitimate as our living. (Matt 7:21)

The genuineness of one’s salvation is not based upon religious traditions or the presumptuousness of freedom from religious accompaniments, but on the basis of how one handles the commands of Christ. (Mk 7:6-9)

Christian freedom is freedom from doing what I want or used to want so I can do what Christ wants. Is your act of freedom for Jesus or just for freedom?

Beware of spiritual rebellion punkism!

3. Becoming complacent spiritually or idle is contrary to the commands of Christ. (3:6f)

The reward of salvation is full future *participation in the glory of Christ* secured now through a robust spirituality. (2 Thes 2:14)

This is why you were called

- not just escape but glory!

Robust spirituality ...

- Distances itself from the freeloaders and spiritual slackers who just live for escape. (6,14)
- Works hard and doesn't exercise all the rights and benefits; necessarily grabbing every possible crumb to which it might be entitled. (7-9)
- Doesn't aid and abet sloppy laziness by giving charity to people who won't work (10)
- Never tires of doing what is right (13)

So That ...

Outsiders will clearly see the distinctiveness of genuine passion about Jesus' glory now and the fullness to come.

So-called insiders will either be shamed into repentance or exposed as phonies (posers).