

2nd Thessalonians: teaching #2

Model of a Prophetic People Operating in Edification, Exhortation & Comfort

Opening thoughts

- Summary of last week 2 Thess. is a Prophetic prayer and a model of the true prophetic in use.
- Recalling the early 90's – Somehow we missed the point of what it meant to be a prophetic people. Everything was so mystical and ultra supernatural.
 - Used it to push agendas
 - Heavy on the exhortation
- My goal has always been to bring application to the scripture – translating it into the authentic life and making a part of our everyday lives.

Three characteristics of prophecy

1. It must carry authority & credibility – (Paul's authority was Apostolic)
2. Speaks the word & heart of God
 - Scripture – is inspired by God – it is his word thus prophetic

2 Timothy 3

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

- Speaks in “Spirit & truth” - Characteristic of being spirit filled – sensitive to hearing God's voice and capturing his heart.
3. It is characteristic of the Kingdom of God - Speaks of the now the not yet.
 - Now - Speaks accurately of today's condition & situation
 - Speaks of what is yet to come – often has a foretelling quality for a purpose.

It carries three distinct forms of communication

1 Corinthians 14 (NKJV)

³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

- Edification
- Exhortation
- Comfort.

Life Application

We need the prophetic working in our life as authentic Christian people if we hope to be effective.

- We are called to have both authority & credibility for the prophetic to work in our lives:
 - Authority – We have been given authority in Christ.
 - Credibility – If it's not working for us we lose the credibility to tell others how to live their lives.
- We have got to capture God's heart and His will for the people we love.
- We must operate in edification, exhortation and comfort – and in that order.
 - We must not see this as something for the sabbath spiritual, but a daily operation in our lives.

Edification = “to build up”

Paul's example

2 Thess. 1

¹Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. ⁴Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

¹¹With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. ¹²We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess. 2 ¹³But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth

- Affirms & encourages, building up our hearts & souls.
- Love is the greatest edifier – To be loved and to love. (The greatest commandments)
- To know that you are chosen and known.
[2: 13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord,] [1: 3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.]
- To know that God is at work in your life. [because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth]

Exhortation = To urge or incite by strong appeal

A two way street - If someone can't receive edification they will never receive exhortation and in the end will never be comforted.

2 Thess. 2

¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

Warning Against Idleness

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." ¹¹We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

- Mostly for direction
- Sometimes for correction

Comfort = To sooth in time of adversity, grief or fear

- To assure that God is control.
- To assure that his promises are true.
- Knowing that "28And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8)

2 Thessalonians 3

³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.