

US AND THEM

(2 Thess. 1:3-10)

Introduction:

1. We are told that we are not to think in terms of “us and them” and yet the Bible is filled with that type of speech. Consider the passage read. God will give comfort to “us” and tribulation to “them”. Jesus will punish “them” and be glorified in “us”.
2. We understand that we are not to think/speak in hateful terms of “us and them” but we must acknowledge and think/speak in loving terms of “us and them”.
3. Let us consider “us and them” with regards to status, sanctification, and salvation.

Discussion:

I. With regards to status.

- A. Have we not all sinned? Yes, indeed, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 23); and we all bear the burden, but not the guilt of our forefather’s sin (Rom. 5:12; Ezek. 18:20).
- B. Then are we not all sinners? No! The sins of the Christian have been forgiven and are remembered no more (Jer. 31:31-34 = Heb. 10:16, 17). The Christian has been washed clean and justified (just-as-if-I’d never sinned = 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:9; Rev. 1:5; Gen. 15:6 = Rom. 4:3-9).
- C. Are we not all children of God? Yes, and no.
 1. All mankind can claim God as creator in whose image we have all been created (Gen. 1:26, 27). But not all can claim membership in the family of God with an inheritance reserved in heaven.
 2. Christians have been adopted by God in Christ (Rom. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:5, 11) and stand as members of the household of God (Eph. 2:19) with an inheritance reserved in heaven for them (1 Pet. 1:3, 4). Christians have even been given a down payment of that glorious inheritance. The Holy Spirit is that down payment and the identifier of the Christian’s status (Eph. 1:13, 14).
- D. Are we not all under the sovereignty of God? Yes, and no.
 1. Truly, God is over all, and has sovereignty in the lives of all mankind via His role as all-powerful Creator (Rom. 9:21).
 2. Christians, however, are exalted citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We enjoy all the rights and privileges of our heavenly citizenship (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:41; 47; Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20).
- E. The good news of Jesus Christ is that He offers this exalted status of justified citizen of the Kingdom, and member of the family of God to all who will come (Matt. 11:28-30; John 3:16).

II. With regards to sanctification.

- A. Do not all people strive for maturation and betterment? No, because God determines the goal (Rom. 8:29). Only those who are striving for maturation in Christ and conformity to His perfect image are actually bettering themselves. All else is vanity, a chasing after the wind.
- B. Do not all people do good works? No. Again, God is who determines what is good. It is better to help than to hurt, but without God in the picture as motivator and goal, the good works of the world are vanity (Matt. 16:24-27). Bad trees cannot bear good fruit (Matt. 7:13-27; 23:15).
- C. The good news of Jesus Christ is that anyone at any time can come and make of himself a vessel of honor for our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:21; cp. 2 Thess. 1:12 and Matt. 5:16).

III. With regards to salvation.

- A. At the end (of either or physical life or the physical reality) mankind will be divided by our Lord into two groups: the lambs and goats (Matt. 25:32), the saved and the condemned (Matt. 25:46); and the criteria for judgment has been made plain (2 Thess. 1:8).
- B. The good news of Jesus Christ is that all who will can be saved (Rom. 6:23; Is. 55:1-7).

Conclusion:

1. The hard truths of “us and them” ought to serve to motivate us to ensure our “us-ness” and to strive to encourage the “them” to come and join “us”.
2. Consider the loving words of Paul to that church in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 4). He had delivered to them the truth, he encouraged them to obey it/live it, he explained that once they had gotten good at that they could effectively reach out to others with that same truth and encouragement.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “US AND THEM”

1. Other great “us and them” passages.
 - Matt. 28:18-20
 - Acts 2:36-47
 - 1 Tim. 4
 - Rev. 20:11-15
2. Paul’s treatise on “us and them” = Rom. 11-12.
3. A powerful and sobering example of that treatise = 2 Thess. 1.

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING NOV. 5TH

Those with long term issues

Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his recovery from surgery.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling (Lauryn Corbelli studying in Europe).
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body, but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.
- ▶ Our community; that they may seek the Lord and we might be able to guide them into the truth.