

APPRECIATING OTHERS AND WELCOMING HIS SPIRIT

**I Thessalonians 5:12-28**

12But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. 16Rejoice always; 17pray without ceasing; 18in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19Do not quench the Spirit; 20do not despise prophetic utterances. 21But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; 22abstain from every form of evil. 23Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. 25Brethren, pray for us. 26Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. 28The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

- Appreciating leaders and each other. **(v12-18)**
  - Paul requests that leaders, pastors, and instructors be held in high esteem and deep respect.
  - Secondly, he instructs the church members to live in peace with one another.
    - The concept of living in peace with each other may be the best way of showing honor to the leaders!
  - Instructions for living in peace with others. **(v14-18)**
    - Admonish the unruly – warn and advise (seriously) those who are out of line. (AMPC)
    - Be encouraging and consoling. The faint hearted, be holding onto the weak, and be patient with everyone (with the exception of \_\_\_\_\_)!
    - Don't pay back evil for evil or ugly for ugly, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for everyone. "Always aim at what is best" ...**Knox** "Always follow the kindest course" ...**TCNT** (And 'see' 'Admonish')
    - Rejoice always...Jesus is full of joy; you can always rejoice in Him.
    - Pray without ceasing...never dismiss the prompting to pray...pray regularly and be aware of your spirit being one with God.
    - In everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus...'in' everything not 'for' everything...you can thank God whatever happens.
    - Don't be quenching the Spirit.
      - Don't stifle, suppress, or extinguish His gifts, manifestations or promptings.
      - Don't extinguish His fire.
      - Don't stifle His voice or utterances.
      - This verse is probably pointing to the exhortations in the Old Testament to be putting wood on the altar so that the fire did not go out.
      - Do not despise prophetic utterances or gifts.
      - Examine everything carefully; hold fast to what is good...Prove to approve.

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29Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. 30But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. 31For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn, and all may be exhorted; 32and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; 33for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. **I Corinthians 14:29-33**

- Abstain from every form of evil.
- Abstain from every outward appearance of evil,
- “Reject all that has a look of evil about it.” **Knox**

23 And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound *and* complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). 24 Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] *and* utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you]. **I Thessalonians 5:23-24 AMPC**

- This is remarkable...Paul says pray for us...

**This is every teenage boy’s favorite verse...**

Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

- Some translations say ‘sacred’ kiss.
  - This was a very acceptable cultural practice as well
- **V27**...Have this letter read to everybody...it’s that significant...all of the issues we just covered plus so much from chapters 1-4

1Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; 3constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, **I Thessalonians 1:1-3 NASB**

- Paul’s greeting is a classic one...grace and peace.
  - Grace is that love of God that touches us regardless of who we may be or what we may have done. It is the reason for our redemption and our relationship to God.
  - Peace is that wonderful sense of well-being that flows from the new life of grace in Jesus.
- Paul and his team consistently ‘make mention’ of the Thessalonians in prayer.
  - You can do this! You can make mention of people by name at the throne of grace.
  - Speaking to God on behalf of others...mentioning their name in His presence ‘counts’ with God.
- Paul spiritually ‘parents’ the Thessalonian church:
  - He brought people to the place of benefit and blessing in God, and he turned their hearts to God so that the Lord would receive blessing and glory from them.

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- Most importantly, what Paul did to parent this group of people worked! It produced the ultimate result. (v13)
  - 13 And we also [especially] thank God continually for this, that when you received the message of God [which you heard] from us, you welcomed it not as the word of [mere] men, but as it truly is, the Word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe [exercising its superhuman power in those who adhere to and trust in and rely on it]. **I Thessalonians 2:13 Amplified Bible**
    - The word which is inwardly working itself in you who believe...**The Emphasized NT**
    - ...which has living power in you who have faith...**The NT in Basic English**
    - God's Word which is being constantly set in operation in you who believe...**Wuest NT**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup>and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, <sup>3</sup>so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. **I Thessalonians 3:1-3 NASB**

- One of Paul's chief concerns was that the Thessalonians would get disturbed or deceived by the difficulties that he and they were facing. (**I Thessalonians 3:3**)
  - He points out that working through the difficulties was connected to their destiny... (dealing with difficulties is linked to destiny).
  - ..." that none of you might be un-nerved by your present trials." **Weymouth**

<sup>1</sup>Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. **I Thessalonians 4:1 NASB**

- Our desire: God's pleasure...pleasing God
  - You received instruction from us as to how to walk and please God. (**I Thessalonians 4:1**)
  - ..." I taught you how to walk that you might please God" ... **Wm Conybeare**
  - ..."to continue advancing in the idea you caught from us, how to behave in a way that pleases God...**The Berkley N.T.**

And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. **John 8:29 NASB**

- ..." I am always doing the things that are pleasing to Him." **John 8:29 Wuest**

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9Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. **I Thessalonians 4:9 NASB**

- We need to be taught by God to love one another. (See **I Thessalonians 4:8-12**)
  - This word is found in Greek literature to describe the natural love of children for their father.
  - Paul exhorts them to continue to grow and abound in love for the family of God.
  - This kind of love will empower you to conduct yourself in ways that will influence people who don't know the Lord. (**v12**)
  - "...so that you may live influentially with outsiders..." **v12 – Williams**
  - It will also help with meeting needs among the body of Christ. (**v12**)
  - True freedom is not freedom from responsibility to God and others, but freedom from being centered on ourselves in order to live for God and for others.

For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **I Thessalonians 4:7 NASB**

Sanctification is a progressive growth in righteousness. It is a process whereby we are to become less and less of what we used to be and more and more of what God wants us to be. God says, "I want your daily life to be more and more free from the practice of sin and more and more dedicated and consecrated to Me, so your Christian life demonstrates that you have indeed been changed and made a new creation in Jesus." When you get saved, God wants you to become more and more like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Jerry Vines**

16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words. **I Thessalonians 4:16-18 NASB**

- He leads us into a brief discussion of Jesus returning to us and for us:

\*Note **v18** – we are to comfort one another...COMFORT – NOT criticize, NOT chastise, NOT judge, or belittle...but **COMFORT!**

Part of our pleasing God and living in His will to act on His Word. Regardless of your eschatology, Jesus is coming back, and we are supposed to bless, strengthen, and encourage one another with this truth.