

letters to Thessalonica

#8 the church of the Thessalonians, I Thess 5:12-28

In the conclusion of his letter, Paul wrote important instructions for the proper function of the new body of Christians in Thessalonica. Of course these principles would be the same for any congregation of the truly born-again.

The instructions are in three parts. First, (v:12-13) the care of the leadership. Second, (v:14-15) behavior toward one another and third, (v:16-22) personal day to day, sanctified living.

12 But 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, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

[1.] v:12, we request of you, Paul, Silas and Timothy were probably all involved in selecting these leaders. Study I Timothy 1:3-7, and write down some things they were looking for in their selections.

[2.] v:12-13, There always seems to be someone who cannot submit to authority. How might this be the source of great damage to a congregation?

[3.] v:14, admonish the unruly, Even in our time some have been raised where unruliness has been an acceptable way of life. List some ways the brethren can correct this in a congregation.

[4.] v:15, evil for evil, In Matt 18:21, when Christ was asked by His disciples how many times they needed to forgive, what did He answer?

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16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

[5.] v:15 again, If we discover some evil with a fellow Christian what will happen if, rather than repairing it, there is a tendency to keep probing to find more evil?

[6.] v:15 again, that which is good, As a Christian how can it benefit you if the unsaved know you are always seeking what is best for them.

[7.] v:16-18, Rejoice, pray, give thanks, Why might you conclude that these commands all go together?

[8.] v:16, Rejoice, We know it is easier to be around a rejoicing person than a complaining one. If a congregation wants more friends as well as opportunities to minister, how should they be?

[9.] v:18, pray, If you are some place where you cannot pray out loud, what should you do?

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19 Do not quench the Spirit;

20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

[10.] v:18 again, *pray*, Why can we give thanks that God answers the prayer of the righteous and not just that which is legislated by your country?

[11.] v:19, If the Holy Spirit was like a fire, what would quenching do?

[12.] v:19 again, Next to the following, describe what we as Christians might unintentionally do if we quench the Spirit.

a) Conviction for Christian purity.

b) Discoveries in personal Bible study.

c) Commitment for Christian service.

[13.] v:20-22, examine everything *carefully*, Acts 17:11 tell how the Bereans searched the scripture. What portion of our Bible did they probably search?

prophetic utterances, This word can refer to a spoken revelation from God (cf. Acts 11:27, 28; I Tim 1:18; 4:14) but most often refers to the written word of scripture (Matt 13:14, II Pet 1:19-21; Rev 1:3, 22:7, 10, 18, 19) These “prophecies” are authoritative messages from God through a well recognized spokesman for God that, because of their divine origin, are not to be treated lightly. When God’s word is preached or read, it is to be received with great seriousness. MacArthur Study Bible

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23 Now 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. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

[14.] v:20-22 again, examine everything *carefully*, Write down some things that should be avoided to accomplish this kind of examination?

[15.] v:20-22 again, examine everything *carefully*, In Gal 1:6, Paul pointed out that the churches were deserting the grace of Christ for a different gospel. From I Cor 1:18-19, why is a different gospel so attractive to the unsaved?

[16.] 23-24, From these two verses jot down the statements that assure us that we are important to God?

[17.] v:25, From the list below, choose why you feel Paul made this request.

- a) He felt he needed a vacation.
- b) Silas contracted a rare disease.
- c) Our ministry is beyond our human strength.
- d) The weather had been terrible down there.

[18.] v:26, Though cultural, how is this act a comfort to believers?

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27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

[19] v:26 again, There are some individuals who have difficulty, for what ever reason, with a hug or even a handshake. How can you discover them in your congregation?

[20.] v:27-28, this letter read to all, We have our own Bibles but, how how often would the Lord want this letter corporately read: then as well as now?

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