

Textual Outline**1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**

- I. ¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters,
 - A. to acknowledge those
 - 1. who work hard among you,
 - 2. who care for you in the Lord
 - 3. and who admonish you.
 - B. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.
 - C. Live in peace with each other.
- II. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters,
 - A. warn those
 - 1. who are idle
 - 2. and disruptive,
 - B. encourage the disheartened,
 - C. help the weak,
 - D. be patient with everyone.
 - E. ¹⁵ Make sure that
 - 1. nobody pays back wrong for wrong,
 - 2. but always strive to do what is good
 - a) for each other
 - b) and for everyone else.
- III. (+ Spiritual Devotion)
 - A. ¹⁶ Rejoice always,
 - B. ¹⁷ pray continually,
 - C. ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances;
 - D. for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- IV. ¹⁹ Do not
 - A. quench the Spirit.
 - B. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies
 - 1. with contempt
 - 2. ²¹ but test them all;
 - 3. hold on to what is good,
 - 4. ²² reject every kind of evil.
- V. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace,
 - A. sanctify you through and through.
 - B. May your whole
 - 1. spirit,
 - 2. soul
 - 3. and bodybe kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a) ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful,
 - b) and he will do it.

- C. ²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us.**
- D. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss.**
- E. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.**
- F. ²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. COPYRIGHT© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Conceptual Outline: I Thess 5:12-28

1. Relationship with leaders
 - a. acknowledge their hard work, care, and teaching
 - b. honor them
 - c. live in peace
2. Relationship with one another
 - a. Warn the idle & disruptive
 - b. encourage the discouraged
 - c. help the weak
 - d. be patient
 - e. do good/do not take revenge
3. Personal Devotion
 - a. Rejoice
 - b. pray
 - c. give thanks
4. Handling the truth
 - a. Do not quench the Spirit
 - b. Handle prophecies - test, hold on to good, reject evil
5. Final Greetings
 - a. Blessings & prayer for holiness
 - b. invitation for supplication
 - c. greetings

Theme:

Respond to 2nd coming by encouraging one another, practicing His presence, properly handling the truth.

Questions

I Thessalonians 5:12-28

1. Having taught the Thessalonians regarding the 2nd Coming, Paul concludes the book by emphasizing on several important relationships that would help us live in light of the 2nd Coming. Can you identify the 1st of these relationships in vs. 12-13? How does he describe our leaders? From what we've learned in Ch 1-3, what motivates leaders? While leaders serve because of their faith, love, and hope, how are we to treat them? Why is each of these ways important in our relationships with leaders of the Church? Which one of the 3 ways would you need to work on most? Think of a specific action you can take to implement this teaching.

Relationship with leaders. They work hard, care, & admonish. They're motivated by their faith, love, and hope for God and His people. We're to acknowledge (know in some translations), hold them in highest regard in love, and live in peace with them. They work because of love; we respect them in love. This is the way of a loving community in Christ. Without it, we'll be tempted to become judgmental, critical, disobedient, and rebellious. Division will result. Hearts will grow cold. Hope will diminish. Our mutual love for one another binds us and holds us to the end.

2. What is the next relationship Paul urges us to work on in vs.14 & 15? What are the 5 ways we are to treat one another? How are the 1st 3 different from the last 2? Can you try to summarize the 1st 3 in 1 sentence? What would that be? The instruction in v. 15 asks us to make sure that nobody takes revenge and everyone strives to do good. How are we to accomplish that practically? Most of these things seem to be things for leaders to do. Why do you think Paul is instructing all of us to do them? Of the 5, which one do you need to work on more?

Relationship with one another. Warn the idle & disruptive. Encourage the disheartened. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure nobody takes revenge but do what is good. 1st 3's summary – Treat people according to their needs. Whatever their unique situation calls for, we're to meet those needs. The last 2 are more general principles that applies to everyone. We are to treat everyone, regardless of who they are, with the same love, respect, and courtesy. V.15 calls us to be mindful of one another's behaviors. It's hard to be so responsible for one another. Yet, we are a body and are in a real sense, responsible for one another. Practically, we need to warn, admonish, care, and do whatever is necessary to help one another. In the Body of Christ, there's no division between F/T worker, leaders, or laity. We're all in one family. The F/T worker can't do it all.

3. What is the next relationship vs.16-18? What is God's will for those of us who are in Christ? Why are these spiritual disciplines important as we awaiting Christ's return? Paul used 2 adverbs (always & continually) & a phrase (in all circumstances) to emphasize the consistency in practicing these spiritual disciplines, what can you do to be certain that you will practice them consistently & without exceptions?

Relationship with our God. Rejoice, pray, give thanks. To be constantly connected with

the Lord through prayer is the only way to survive till we see Him. Rejoicing and giving thanks in all circumstances help us focus on His strength, purpose, and will for us. They help us rise above trials, persecutions, and afflictions.

4. What is the next relationship in vs 19-22? There are 2 negative commands and 3 positive ones. What are they? How are they important in achieving a good balance in the way we handle the truth especially in light of the end time?

Relationship with the truth. Being sensitive to the Spirit and practicing spiritual discernment is vital in handling the truth. Sin, pride, and rebelliousness can cause us to quench and even grieve the Holy Spirit. Testing & rejecting every kind of evil will prevent us from being deceived by the Enemy.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 John 4:1-3

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

5. What is Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians in vs. 23 & 24? Why does he emphasize "through & through" & "whole spirit, soul, and body" to be sanctified and kept blameless? How is separating our spirit, soul, & body practiced by contemporary Christians? Isn't the goal of being sanctified (holy) & blameless too hard to achieve, too lofty to even consider? How can an average believer like you and me be blameless? How is God described here? What do these description tell us about how we can be blameless and holy?

To be sanctified & blameless at the coming of Christ. Gnosticism in their days teaches separating the body and soul and condoned sin as OK because it can't harm the spirit since they are separate. Paul teaches here that we're to be blameless and holy as a whole person. In our generation, we sometimes keep separate lives at church and outside of church. God needs to be God in all of our lives – work, home, church, in public and in private. We sin & deceive ourselves when we do not let Him be God of every aspect of our being. We can't do it on our own. By ourselves, there's no way we can be blameless now, let alone until His Return. Paul tells us clearly in His description of God that it is Him who "will do it." v. 24. God of peace – peace come through the sanctifying work on Jesus on the cross. God of peace will help us maintain peace with Him, ourselves, and others. "The one who calls you is faithful" - He calls us to be holy. When we respond to His call, we say "Yes" to Him and He's faithful to accomplish His work in us. He'll finish what He's started. We just need to let Him be God in our lives and let Him do His work in us.

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set

before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

6. In ending, Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for him. If prayer is important for spiritual giants like Paul, having prayer support is vital for us. Whom will you pray for constantly and whom would you invite to pray for & with you regularly?