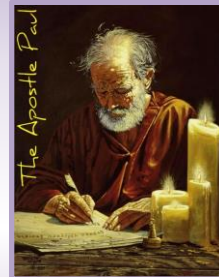


THESSALONIANS

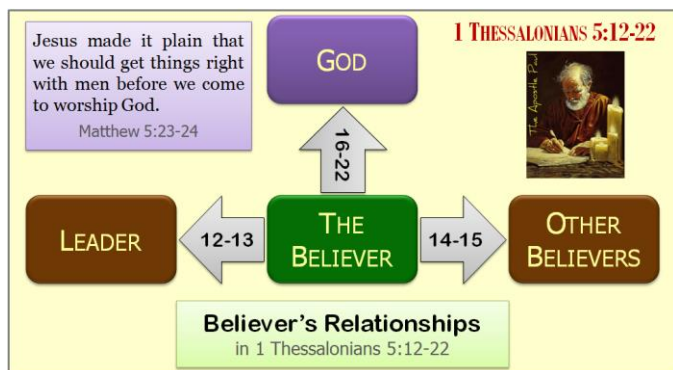
There Is Hope!



Lesson 09: Future Hope: Part II ... [1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28]

PREVIEW

Paul teaches the need to have a proper attitude toward church leaders and other believers. Struggling believers are to be the recipient of special care from the church members. Believers are to rejoice, give thanks, follow the Holy Spirit, and abstain from evil activities. Paul concludes with a prayer that the God of peace will allow them to stand before Him one day fully set apart to Him. This hope can be guaranteed because of the faithful character of God.



EXHORTATIONS: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-15

In verse 12 Paul urges the Thessalonian believers to recognize their spiritual leaders, described in three ways, (1) *"Those who labor among you"*, (2) *"And are over you in the Lord"* and (3) *"And admonish you"*.

THOSE WHO LABOR AMONG YOU

Paul urged them to recognize their spiritual leaders according to their ministry - their service and not for what they were, but what they were doing as ministers of the Lord.

AND ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD

We as believers are all on the same level (pastor, teachers, elders, people) - we are all children of God (John 1:10-13). We are all members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) and each of us possesses different God-given gifts, which we are to use to serve each other (Ephesians 4:11-12). It is this unique giftedness that needs to be recognized.

AND ADMONISH YOU

The Thessalonians were urged to accept the admonition given to them by their teachers.

In verse 13 Paul urges believers to esteem their leaders very highly in love. Believers should do this for their work's sake for their leaders don't deserve esteem because of their title, or because of their personality, but because of their labor on behalf of God's people.

In verse 14 Paul exhorts the Thessalonian believers to minister in diverse ways, depending on the state of the person who needs the ministry. If someone is unruly, then the duty of the believer is to warn them, others will need comfort from the believer, while others will need to be upheld by the believer. Different approaches must be taken with different people; believers must be patient with all, because true believers are validated by their ability to love and help difficult people. We do not look for only perfect people to minister to and to minister with.

In verse 15 Paul declares the believer should never seek revenge or vengeance (Romans 12:19), but let God take up our side. Instead, we must always pursue what is good both for you and for all. When we have a forgiving heart towards others, not only is it good for them, it is good for ourselves.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-22

In verses 16-18 Paul now turns his attention to instructions regarding our relationship with God.

These instructions are mostly short and to the point. All are crucial to a healthy relationship with God.

REJOICE ALWAYS

Not only rejoicing in happy things, but in sorrows also. The believer can rejoice always because their joy is not based on changing circumstances, but based on God.

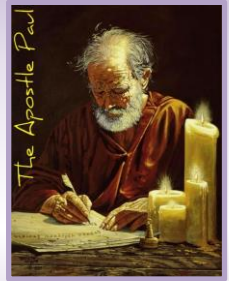
HAPPINESS is rooted in circumstances.
Happiness is ephemeral.

JOY is rooted in our relationship with God.
Jesus has reconciled us to God - rejoice!

JOY VERSUS HAPPINESS

THESSALONIANS

There Is Hope!



Lesson 09: Future Hope: Part II ... [1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28]

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Believers are to pray continually. We cannot bow our heads, close our eyes, and fold our hands without ceasing, but those are customs of prayer, not prayer itself. Prayer is communication with God, and we can live each moment of the day in a constant, flowing, conversation with God.

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

We don't give thanks **FOR** everything, but **IN** everything. We recognize God's sovereign hand is in charge, and not blind fate or chance.

"When joy and prayer are married their first born child is gratitude." ---Charles Spurgeon.

DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT

We can quench the fire of the Holy Spirit by our doubt, our indifference, our rejection of Him, or by the distraction of other things. When a believer draws attention to themselves, it is a sure sign of quenching the Holy Spirit.

TEST ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST WHAT IS GOOD

Evil and deception can show itself even in a spiritual setting, so it is important for believers to test all things. When the test has been made, according to the standard of God's Word and the discernment of spirit among the leaders, we then hold fast to what is good.

Believers are to have nothing to do with any form of evil. The word **FORM** (eidous - [ā'-dos]) means that which is seen; the external appearance. It points to the external form in which evil presents itself.

BLESSING AND ADMONITION: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28

In verse 23 the "*God of peace Himself*" is the Lord Jesus Christ, He is the one who will sanctify the believer completely. The word **SANCTIFY** (hagiazō - [hā-gē-ā'-zō]) means to separate from profane things and dedicate to God; to consecrate. Sanctification comes by truth – God's word is truth (John 17:16-19).

The word **COMPLETELY** (holotelēs - [ho-lo-te-lā's]) means complete in all respects; wholly; holistic. Completely in the sense of across all tenses of salvation.

PAST: JUSTIFICATION - Saved from the **PENALTY** of Sin
PRESENT: SANCTIFICATION - Saved from the **POWER** of Sin
FUTURE: GLORIFICATION - Saved from the **PRESENCE** of Sin

MAY YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY BE PRESERVED BLAMELESS

This phrase presents the tripartite architecture of man, *i.e., man in "three parts"*.

ENGLISH	GREEK	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
SPIRIT	pneuma	pnū'-mä	Core of a man; breath of life Genesis 2:7
SOUL	psychē	psū-khā'	the seat of the feelings, desires, affections
BODY	sōma	sō'-mä	Body of men, animals and plants. container

Notice the order of the presentation, spirit to body; this is how God views us (inside out). Man takes the opposite view, *i.e., body to spirit (outside in)*.

HE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL

Jesus is the one who calls believers; He is the One who is faithful. We are faithless, helpless, hopeless, and headed for hell. He is faithful, powerful, full of hope, and by His blood we are headed for heaven. Jesus will do it (Philippians 1:6, 2:13). Aren't you glad it does not depend on you!

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU

Notice this letter began with a greeting of grace (1:1), and now it concludes with grace as well. This is the closing signature of Paul; it is used on all of his letters. Some scholars cite this signature as evidence of a Pauline authorship of Hebrews (Hebrews 13:25).

GRACE is God's unmerited favor, His bestowal of love and acceptance on us because of who He is and what Jesus has done. **GRACE** means that He loves us, and all the reasons are in Him. **GRACE** means we can stop working for His love and start receiving it.