

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
June 16,2021
Final Instructions

Just a reminder to know that Paul ended every chapter in his first letter to the Thessalonians with the encouragement of the return of Christ. 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:16-18 and now here in 5:23. This helps us to know that we must indeed be heavenly minded, in fact so heavenly minded that we are even more earthly good. Our hope for the future is one we can joyfully share and be of a higher social value for it. If you've been to recent meetings in our church we are learning that we need to be an active part in the social process of our nation so that we can stand for the values that matter to God and to ourselves. While we are living life and basing our citizenship in Jesus, He commands us to do His business here on earth (Luke 19:13) and now, here in this chapter and these final verses of 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul gives us his final instructions on the way to live our daily lives. Let's see what matters to Paul and perhaps to illustrate his intentions.

Verses 12-13 tell us to take special note of those among us who dedicate time and effort to performing the work of teaching, training and tempering the congregation. While we cannot blindly follow our leaders we must diligently keep them accountable to keep the peace in the fellowship and allow a trust to build in their leadership. Hebrews 13:17. It is the duty of leaders and teachers to sincerely seek the Lord and teach truth. James 3:1.

What instructions follow?

Verse 14;

- Exhort leaders; 1 Peter 5:1-3
- Warn the unruly; 2 Thessalonians 3:6
- Comfort the feebleminded; Psalm 147:3, 73:26, 34:18
- Support the weak; Acts 20:35
- Have patience with all; Colossians 3:12

Verse 15;

- Practice non retaliation; 1 Peter 3:9, Romans 12:17
- Follow the good; Psalm 23:6, Galatians 5:22-23

Verse 16; Rejoice; Philippians 4:4

Verse 17; Pray constantly; Ephesians 6:18, Colossians 4:2

Verse 18; Give thanks; Ephesians 5:20

Verse 19; Yield to the Spirit; Ephesians 4:30

Verse 20; Honor prophecy; 2 Peter 1:21

Verse 21; Prove all things; 1 John 4:1

Verse 22; Eschew evil; 1 Peter 3:10-11

Verses 23-28; As the God of peace sets us apart from the world, He will fully perfect us upon His return. He even comforts us that this is His job, not ours, so allow Him access to your will. With Paul's benediction; a plea... read and study this epistle in all the church of Christ. He knew he was teaching God's heart. If Paul only knew how today his letter is dissected in thousands of churches by millions of his brothers and sisters. Thank God for His Word and His faithful followers.