1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 13

5:12-15

Your memory verse this week is 5:14.

As you read through chapter 5, ask God to open your eyes that you might behold wonderful things from His law! (Psalm 119:18)

*Like a parent sending his son or daughter off to college, Paul is using these last moments in his letter to remind and encourage the Thessalonians in their relationship with the Lord and with each other.*

1. **Rather than speaking about titles or qualifications, the apostle indirectly mentions roles that pastors play in order that the congregation knows how they should respond to their leaders. Paul begins by asking the believers to have a godly, respectful attitude toward their leaders. In vv. 12-13 what are the privileges, duties, and calling that Paul reminds the church that leaders assume and fulfill on their behalf?**
2. **In what sense do our elders have charge over us (vs. 12)? See also**

**Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-4.**

1. **In response, what are the people to do? The word appreciate comes from the Greek “oida”, which means to know by experience, to understand. Why would “knowing” a man fulfilling the calling and duties Paul outlines, result in respect, esteem, and appreciation for them?**
2. **Verse 13 tells us to “*live at peace with one another*.” Why would Paul encourage them to do this in the context of Thessalonica?**
3. Many people say that commands to live in peace with one another means that we as believers need to tolerate sin and error in teaching for the sake of unity and peace within our churches. How can the following verses help us to understand where boundaries need to be set?

John 15:17-24

1Timothy 1:3, 6:3-5; 11-12

2 Timothy 2:22-26

Titus 3:8-11

1. **In v. 14 Paul gives the encouragement to the whole church to distinguish character, and to minister truth, in ways appropriate to another’s attitudes and behavior. Are these categories like permanent labels for various believers, describing their entire lives; or are they temporary identifications that change and flex over time?**
2. **Define *admonish.***
3. What do the following verses tell us about the spirit, purpose and means of admonishment? Look up as many as time allows.

Acts 20:29-32

Romans 15:14

1 Corinthians 4:14

Colossians 1:28

Colossians 3:16

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

1. The word translated *unruly* means idle, undisciplined, or lazy. In your own words, what would it look like to admonish an unruly believer?
2. **Define *fainthearted*.**
3. What sort of encouragement would a fainthearted believer need? Look up

Isaiah 35:3-4; Romans 14:1; Hebrews 6:1-2.

1. **As used in verse 14, the *weak* refer to those who are spiritually without strength*.* In what ways and circumstances could believers become weak?**
2. **How could you help the spiritually weak sister?**
3. **The final command we see in verse 14 is “*Be patient with everyone!”* How can we even begin to approach this standard? What are some scriptural truths that can help us to obey this command?**
4. Aren’t these tasks usually reserved for the pastors and elders to do? Who is it again that Paul is addressing here and what does that tell you?
5. **Think of the people in your sphere of influence. You probably know people in *each* of the categories mentioned. What is God calling you to do for them? Write down some specific ways (POA’s ☺) to serve them according to what you have learned. Please pray and take time to answer this very important question.**

*“Oh blessed Hope of God,*

*Flow through me patiently,*

*Until I hope for everyone*

*As Thou hast hoped for me.”*

1. **In v.15 we see a two-fold command. What is the first command?**
2. **How have you seen others “repay evil for evil” (v. 15)? How have you been tempted to do so yourself? What are some verses that you could think on when tempted to repay evil to those who have hurt you and caused you to suffer? How does God want you to respond? Answer all questions.**
3. **What is the second command in v. 15?**
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do these verses teach us about seeking what is good for another?
5. How different is it for us living in our time and in this culture? What is the world’s teaching on self and others?
6. Toward whom does Paul instruct us to “seek to do good”? How often are we to do this?
7. **Again, in light of the church in Thessalonica, why would this be a humbling and challenging encouragement for them?**