

1 THESSALONIANS: VERSE-BY-VERSE THROUGH PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE
SESSION 11 | 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22 | CLOSING EXHORTATIONS

- Verses 12-13 - Verses 12-13 - Exhortations 1 & 2
 - Exhortation #1: Concerning Spiritual Leadership
 - This exhortation could be concerning general leadership of anyone in God-ordained authority but appears more directed toward those in spiritual authority.
 - Three things about those in authority:
 - They are to **labour among** the people. The word κοπιᾶω [kopiao] is an “intense labor united with trouble and toil” (Strong’s #2873).
 - They **are over you in the Lord**. The Greek προϊστανμι [prohistami] is literally “to stand ahead of time.” It is not a “lording over” word, but a “moving forward” word.
 - They **admonish you**. The word νουθετέω [noutheteo] is literally, “to put the mind in place.” They “help get your thinking straight.”
 - Two instructions to those under authority:
 - They are to **know them which labour**. Understand their thought process.
 - They are to **esteem them very highly in love**. The word **esteem** is a “counting” word. We might say, “put stock in them.”
 - Note that the leadership is not sentenced to hard-labor slavery nor is the “followship” sentenced to blind-obedience. There is a mutual service to each other.
 - Exhortation #2: Concerning Peaceful Assemblies
 - The Thessalonians were to **be at peace among yourselves**.
 - Clearly Paul was addressing a congregation that had some kind of parameters. Within those parameters they were to **be at peace**.
 - This certainly did not mean “always agree,” but certainly did mean “disagree agreeably as you agree on core principles.”
- Verses 14-15 - Exhortation #3: Concerning Interpersonal Relationships
 - **Warn the unruly** -
 - The word **warn** is the same word as **admonish** in verse 12. That is: set their thinking straight.
 - The word **unruly** is ἄτακτος [ataktos], from the root *tasso*, “to designate”, along with the negator letter “a.” The KJV translators put the marginal note *disorderly*.
 - **Comfort the feebleminded** - Literally, “come alongside those without much thinking ability and give them a story [to help their thinking].
 - **Support the weak** - Paul said the same words to the Ephesians in Acts 20:35.
 - **Be patient** - Your fuse *can* come to an end, but it should be a long fuse!

- Be *forgiving* - rather than **render evil for evil** simply **follow that which is good**.
- Verses 16-22 - Exhortation #4: Concerning Spiritual Things
 - **Rejoice evermore** - The words are as plain in the Greek as in the English!
 - **Pray without ceasing** - Make sure there is nothing lacking in your praying.
 - **Give thanks** - What can you do to grow a *thankful* spirit?
 - **Quench not the Spirit** - This would be true both with the Holy Spirit (for which it is intended) and every *positive spirit* that helps achieve spiritual progress.
 - **Despise not prophesyings** - This “says what it says” but it doesn’t mean what some *say it says*. Paul was writing in a day in which **prophesyings** were still being given. He later told the Corinthians that **prophecies, they shall fail** (1 Cor 13:8). Today we should *despise fake prophesyings* because we know that they are an attempt to *add to the perfect and complete* Word of God.
 - **Prove all things** - put all things to the test. This learned habit is sorely lacking in today’s society. After testing all things, **hold fast that which is good**, and, by implication, let go of that which is bad.
 - **Abstain from all appearance of evil** - The word **appearance** is εἶδος [eidos] “form.” In English, the word *eidos* is carried over in the suffix -oid, as in *android* and *astroid*. The suffix means, “in the form of” or “the appearance of.” We should avoid evil in all shapes and sizes.