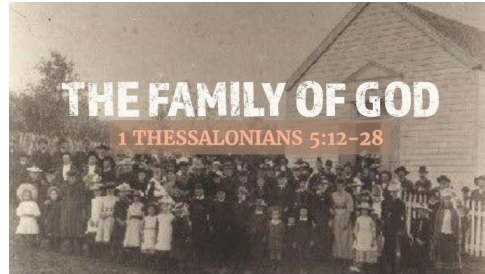


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scripture(s) for Today: 1 Thess 5:12-28 – *Exhortations for a loving family of born-again saints!*

Today's Message:

"The Family of God"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, the Holy Spirit taught with His words that the Church is not appointed unto wrath: we will not be present on the earth for the great Tribulation Period! We have clearly seen in chapters 4 and 5 a distinct contrast between *the Rapture* and *the day of the Lord's wrath*. Today, we will conclude Paul's first letter to this church. He will end the letter with a focus on the **FAMILY** of God. Now there are 100 verses in Paul's letters that contain the word "**BRETHREN**." However, the 2 small letters to this church contain **27** references to this word! Paul will give several clear and direct exhortations as we close the book, and we will be charged to live for Jesus Christ as we wait for His coming for us in the clouds!

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

#1. Family Leadership – Paul beseeches them concerning **SHEPHERDS**. (12-13)

ESTEEM AND LOVE

- ✓ **To know them** which labour among you... over you in the Lord... and admonish you...
- ✓ **To esteem them** very highly in love... their work's sake... be at peace among yourselves.

NOTE The shepherds of God's flock must work hard, be faithful, lead like Jesus Christ. If you cannot esteem and love your pastor, you should either beg God to change your heart or go somewhere else and follow a pastor you can esteem and love.

#2. Family Partnership – Paul exhorts them in care **RESPONSIBILITIES**. (14-15)

EXPECTATIONS OF MUTUAL CARE

- ✓ Some will get out of **LINE**; help them get back in line. **Warn them that are unruly...**
- ✓ Some will get overwhelmed; help them **FIND** His peace. **Comfort the feebleminded...**
- ✓ Some will not have **STRENGTH**; share His strength with them. **Support the weak...**
- ✓ Some will drive you **CRAZY**; help them by His grace. **Be patient toward all men...**
- ✓ Some will do you **WRONG**; show them Jesus. **none render evil for evil unto any man...**
- ✓ Some will not know the **WAY**; lead them to Jesus. **Ever follow that which is good...**

W1828
"feebleminded"
Weak in mind;
wanting firmness
or constancy.

NOTE All family members must care for each other; some will be called to lead the others.

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#3. Family Worship – Paul exhorts them to LIVE pleasing to God. (16-28)**KEYS TO A LIFE OF WORSHIP**

- ✓ Some days are much **HARDER** than others; **be joyful**. *5:16 Rejoice evermore.*
- ✓ Some days will tempt you to **FORGET** God; **be prayerful**. *5:17 Pray without ceasing.*
- ✓ Some days your heart will be **STUBBORN**; **be thankful**. *5:18 In everything give thanks*
- ✓ Some days your spiritual fire will grow **DIM**; **keep burning**. *5:19 Quench not the Spirit.*
- ✓ Some days you will not heed the **BIBLE**; **keep hearing**. *5:20 Despise not prophesyings.*
- ✓ Some sin comes in a friendly **PACKAGE**; **be watchful**. *5:21a – Prove all things...*
- ✓ Some sin weakens your **HANDS**; **hold tight**. *5:21b – ...hold fast that which is good.*
- ✓ Some things may just **LOOK** bad; **be careful**. *5:22–Abstain from all appearance of evil.*
- ✓ Some sins are **HARMFUL** in different ways; **be holy**. *5:23a – Sanctify you wholly...*
- ✓ Some things keep you from God's **BEST**; **be thoughtful**. *5:23b – preserved blameless...*
- ✓ Some things muffle God's **CALLING**; **be faithful**. *5:24– Faithful is he that calleth you...*

W1828
"quench"
To extinguish; to put out; as, to quench a flame.

NOTE That is enough to work on until the Rapture! Prioritize Jesus Christ: live for Him!

CONCLUDING WORDS

- ✓ **REMEMBER** and pray for all God's missionaries. *BRETHREN, pray for us.*
- ✓ **LOOK** out for and care for all saints. *GREET all the brethren with an holy kiss.*
- ✓ **PUBLISH** the word of God. *THIS EPISTLE BE READ unto all the holy brethren.*
- ✓ **GRACE** is our lifeline. *THE GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ BE WITH YOU. Amen.*

Paul's writings:
The word "grace" is used in 85 verses in KJB.

NOTE By God's grace, you must be a faithful member of God's family! Rise up for God!

B. The Application (How will you apply this truth to your life?)

1. This book was written to **encourage** believers and you to **KEEP** being faithful.

QUESTION Has God challenged you to keep fighting the good fight of faith? Do it for Him!

2. This book was written to **teach** you how to live **PLEASING** to God always.

QUESTION Has God reminded you that YOU WERE MEANT FOR MORE through this Book?

3. This book was written to **confirm** details of the imminent **RETURN** of Jesus.

QUESTION Has God stirred the flames of your heart to finish well and wait for your Lord?

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