1 Thessalonians

LIVING FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN

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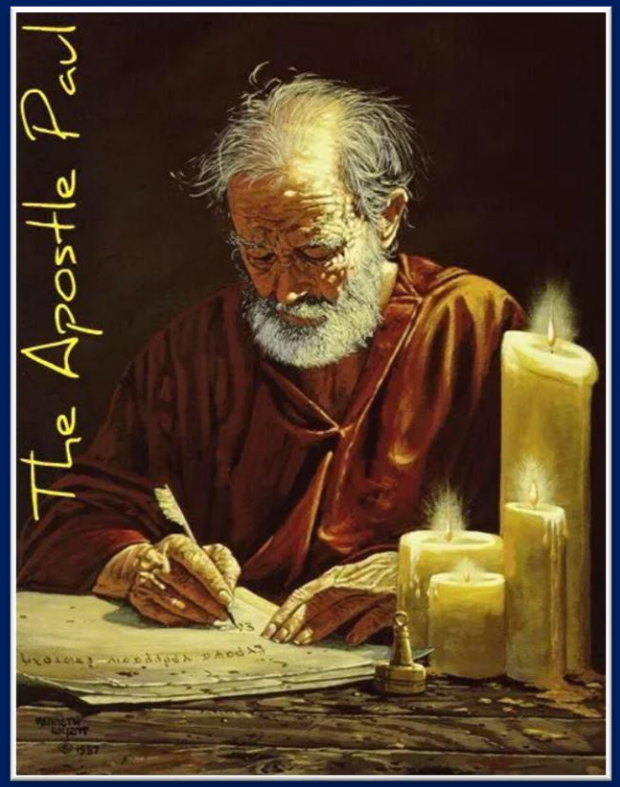
Structure

1 THESSALONIANS 1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4-5
▪ Personal Experience	▪ Practical Exhortation
▪ Looking Back	▪ Looking Forward



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- Personal (1–3)
  - Genuine conversion (1)
  - Impure motives (2:1-16)
  - Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)
- **Practical (4–5)**
  - **Immorality (4:1-8)**
  - **Laziness (4:9-12)**
  - **Eschatology (4:13–5:11)**
  - Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
  - Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)

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Church Life

- 5:12-13 – Attitude toward leaders
- 5:14-15 – Ministry toward one another

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Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10

Practical Sanctification (5:16-24)

- Three positive commands (5:16-18)
- Three negative commands (5:19-22)
- Divine enablement (5:23-24)

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2. Pray without ceasing (5:17)
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2. Do not despise prophetic utterances (5:20-21)
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Matthew 12:24

“But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, ‘This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.’”

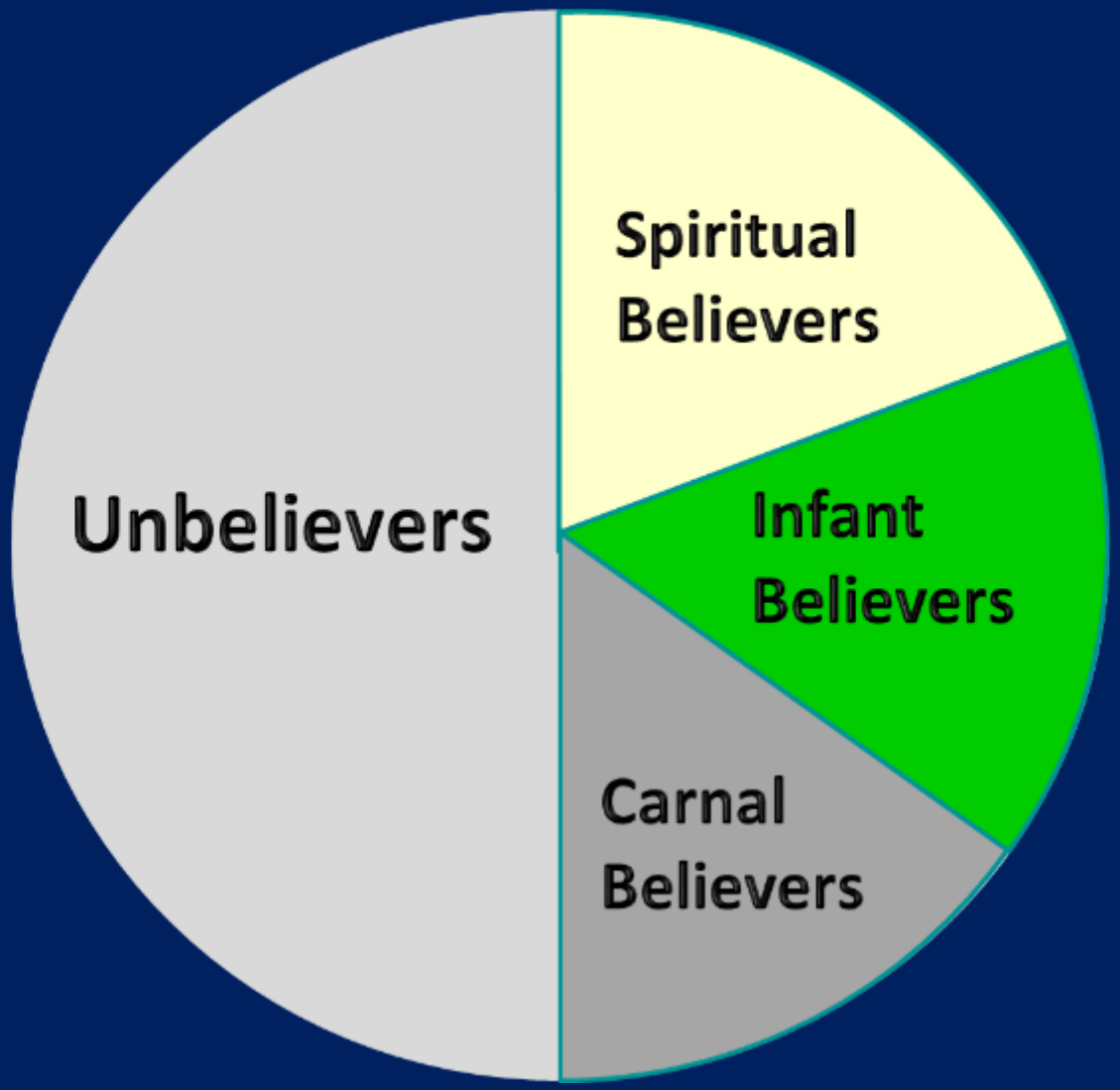
Matthew Outline

- Pedigree of the king (1–2)
  - Preparation of the king (3–4)
    - Pedagogy of the king (5–7)
      - Power of the king (8–9)
        - Program of the king (10)
          - **Progressive rejection of the king (11–12)**
        - Preparation of the king's disciples (13–20)
      - Presentation & rejection of the king (21–23)
    - Prophecies of the king (24–25)
  - Passion of the king (26–27)
- Proof of the king (28)

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it,* and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* **men**?

4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



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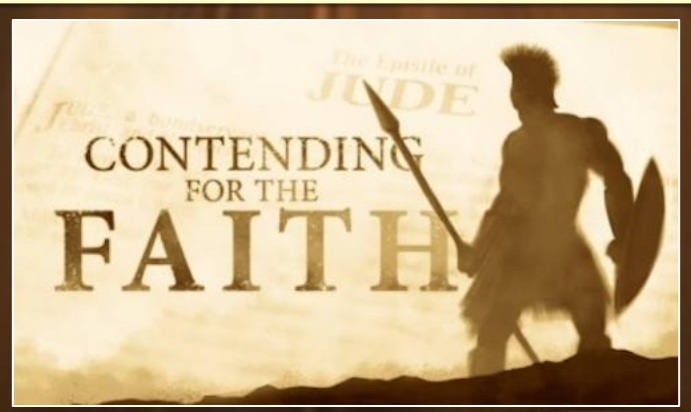
2 Timothy 3:16-17

"16 **All Scripture** is **inspired by God [*theopneustos*]** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for **every** good work."

Jude 3

"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for **the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints**."



Revelation 22:18-19

"I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; [19] and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Acts 17:11

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

1 John 4:1

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test** the spirits to see whether they are from God, **because** many false prophets have gone out into the world."

The 7 Churches in Revelation
Rev. 1: 11
BLACK SEA
BITHYNIA
MYSIA
AEGEAN SEA
ASIA
Pergamum
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Philadelphia
PHRYGIA
Ephesus
Laodicea
Patmos
CARIA
LYCIA
By: Gabriel Morris

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Practical Sanctification (5:16-24)

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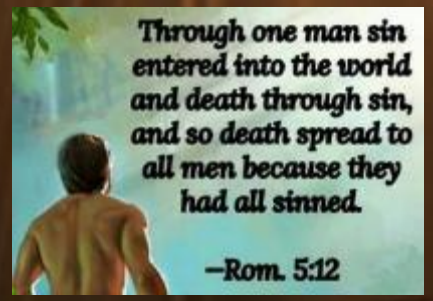
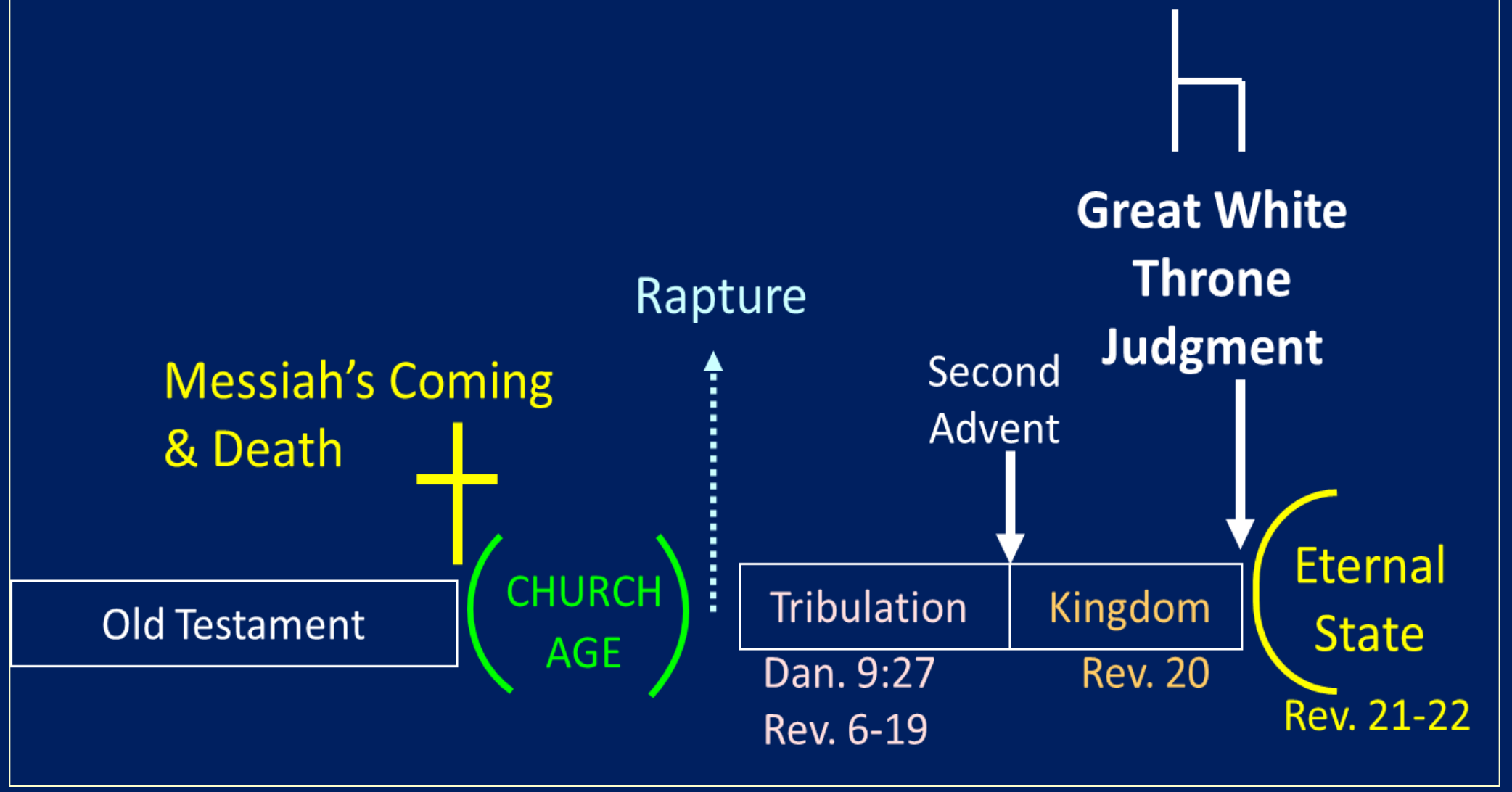
Genesis 2:16-17

"[16] The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; [17] but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely **die (*muwth*)**.'"



Prophecy Panorama



Scripture's Four Judgments

NAME	SHEEP AND GOAT	JUDGMENT OF THE JEWS	BEMA SEAT	GREAT WHITE THRONE
SCRIPTURE	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	1 Cor 3:10-15	Rev 20:11-15
PLACE	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	Heaven	Earth
AUDIENCE	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	Church Age believers	All unsaved
WHEN	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After rapture	After Millennium
PURPOSE	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	Reward believers	Degree of punishment in hell
EVALUATION	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	Works taken through fire	Not in the book; judged by books

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

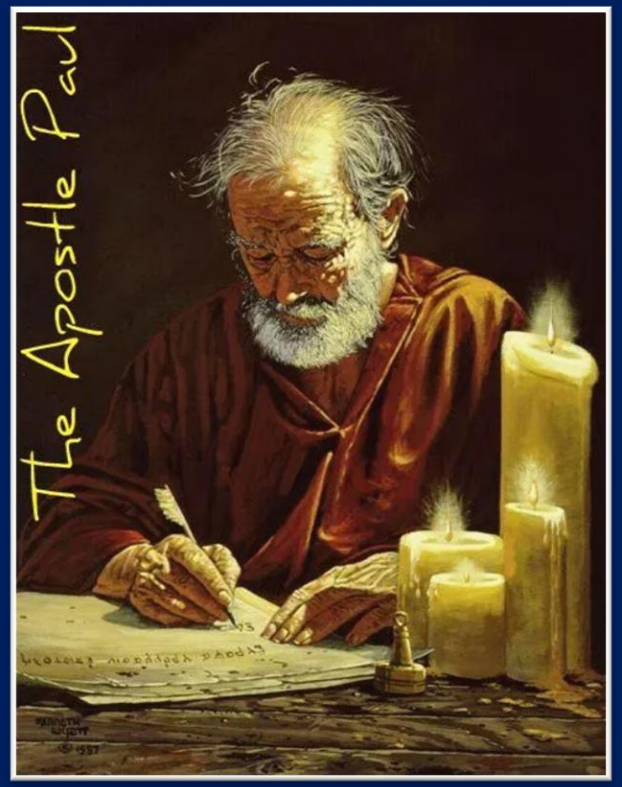
"10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw. 14 If any man's work which he …

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

. . .has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. [15] If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

Unique Characteristics

- Every chapter ends with a reference to the Second Advent
- Small amount of time in between planting of the church and the first letter to the church



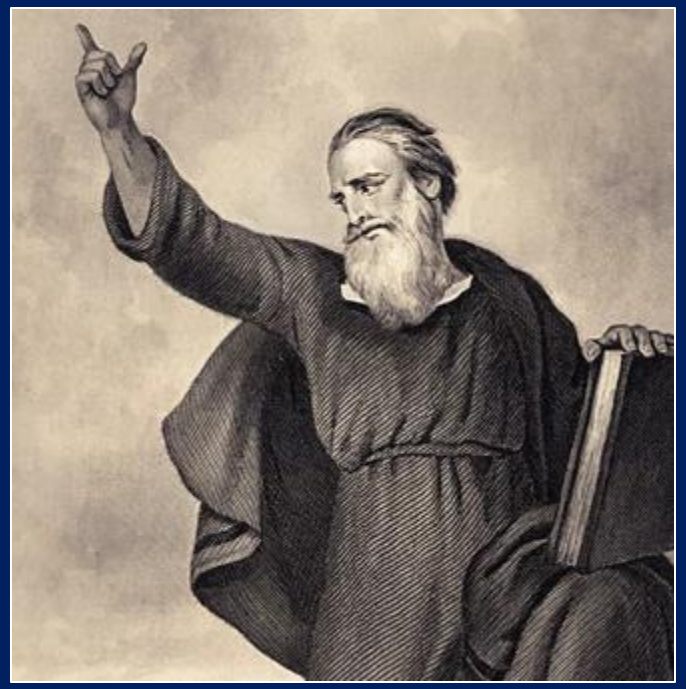
Romans 8:29–30

29 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He **called**, He also justified; and these whom He **justified**, He also **glorified**.

Where's **sanctification**?

Conclusion (5:25-28)

- Three personal requests (5:25-27)
- Benediction (5:28)



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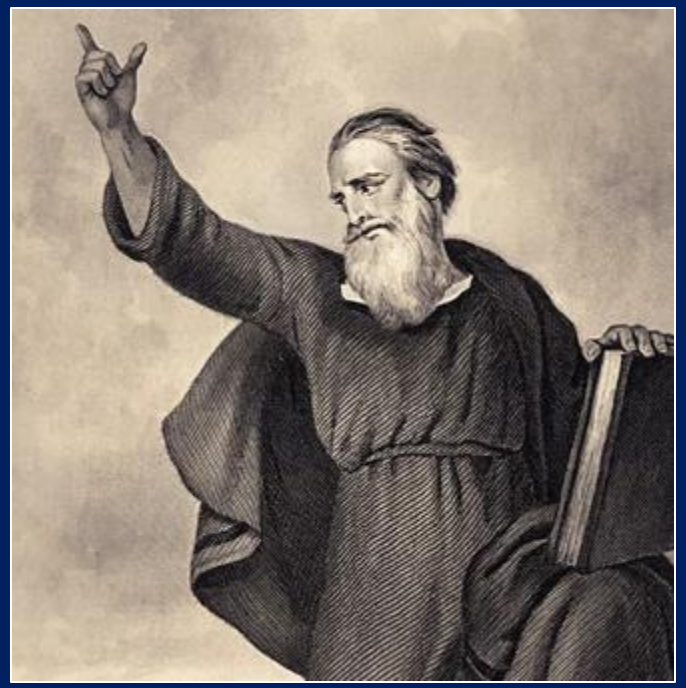

Three Personal Requests (5:25-27)

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2. Greet the brethren (5:26)
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1 Timothy 4:13

"Until I come, give your attention to the public reading, to exhortation, and teaching."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"16 **All Scripture** is **inspired by God [*theopneustos*]** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for **every** good work."

Emphasis of 2 Timothy

"By my count, there are twenty-seven explicit commands given in the body of this letter. In 27 words Paul tells pastors what to focus on. You have to be blind to miss the thrust of Paul's instructions here, because *eighteen* of those commands--fully *two-thirds*--have to do with the ministry of the *Word*."

Daniel Wallace, "Crisis of the Word: A Message to Pastors or Would-be Pastors," *Conservative Theological Journal* 1, no. 2 (August 1997): 108.

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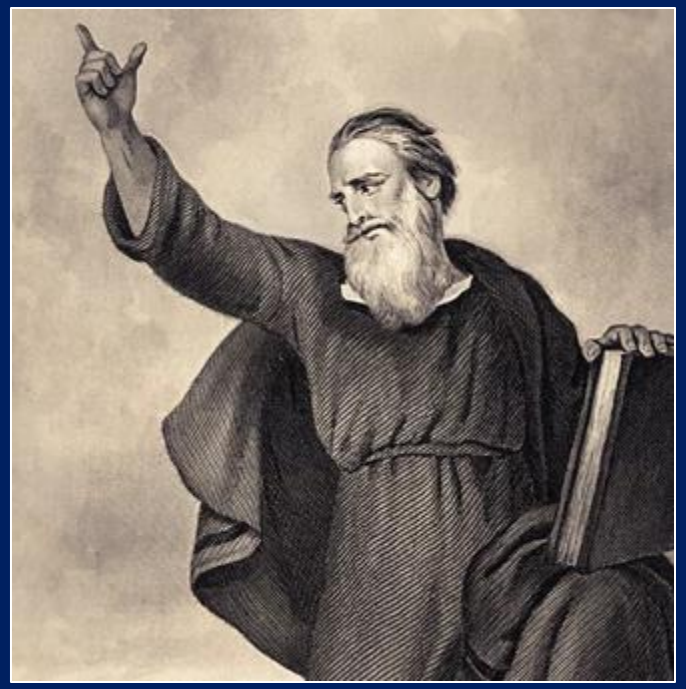

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Message

- Continued growth in faith, hope, and love in view of the Lord's imminent return

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