

Connecting the Gospel to the Life of a Growing Church

1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

25 Brother, [also] pray for us. 26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. 27 I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

(1 Thess 5:25-28)

I. Pray for your shepherds

"Brothers – we could say, 'brothers & sisters' – pray for us, too." [v 25 NET]

1:2 "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before God and Father...

2:13 "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God...

3:9-10 "For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you..."

3:11 "Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and...

5:23 "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely...

5:17 "...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you..."

3:2 "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men."

II. Show affection for one another

1 Thess 4:9-10 "Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers to do this more and more..."

John 13:35 "...just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 12:5 "...we, though many, are one in Christ, and individually members one of another..."

Romans 12:9-13 “Let love (agape) be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love (philostorgos – “be devoted to” be affectionate/loving) one another with brotherly affection (Philadelphia). Outdo (give preference to) one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

III. The means of fulfilment the Word of God

1 Thess 5:27 “I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.”

Col 3:12-17 “¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” In the context of 12-16

1 Tim 4:13 “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

A. That your salvation came because you are loved and chosen by God!

1:4 “For we know, brothers and sisters, loved by God, that He has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.”

1:12b “...[God] calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”

B. ...and that the goal of that salvation is your sanctification through all of life.

1:12a “...we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God...”

3:12-13 “...may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God...”

4:1-12 “... how you ought to walk; this is the will of God, your sanctification; called to holiness; taught by God to love one another; give witness to outsiders

5:12 “respect those who labor among you; esteem them in love; admonish idle, encourage fainthearted, help weak, be patient; seek to do good...”

C. That we live and grow in holiness with an eternal perspective, anticipating Christ’s return.

1:9-10 “you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

4:13 “...that you may not grieve as others do who have not hope.”

4:16-17 “...the Lord will descend...the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up...to meet the Lord... Encourage one another with these words.”

5:23 “...be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

D. Knowing that suffering will be a normal part of life

1:6 "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction..."

2:2 "But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi..."

3:1-4 "we sent Timothy... establish and exhort you...that no one be moved by these afflictions... we kept telling you...we were to suffer affliction..."

E. The context of the local church is assumed... knowing that endurance and strength and growth come within the fellowship of the church

1:1 "...to the church –the ekklēsia – of the Thessalonians

1:3 within the local body, noting their "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

4:9 having been taught by God "to love one another," locally and throughout Macedonia.

5:11-14 "...encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. ...respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and esteem them highly... Be at peace among yourselves..."

F. All built through the means of God's revealed Word... "...have this letter read to all the brethren."

1:6,8 "...for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit... For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere..."

2:13 "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

IV. The life of the church is worked out in the context of the Grace of God

Jn 1:16 "For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."