

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Closing Exhortations
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Last time...the return of the Lord Jesus Christ aka “The 2nd Coming”

1. as the Conquering King and Judge
2. to the earth
3. with His Bride
4. to destroy His enemies and to set up His kingdom (1000 year reign)
5. a roar and a trumpet (war and alarm)
6. man will know when; nations gathered to wage war against Him

This time...concluding this letter to a fellowship that

- has received the Gospel with much affliction – persecution by their own countrymen
- turned to God from idols
- is waiting for Jesus Christ, Who has delivered them from the wrath of God to come
- is walking by faith
- is loving each other in word and in deed
- knows the difference in the 2 Comings of Jesus Christ;
one for them and the other with them

are “closing exhortations” to the Church for a daily walk with the Lord Jesus Christ

These are healthy “looks in the mirror” for

1. “me”...personal application, my walk
2. “we”...what the Church should be like

v12-13a know them which labor among you...over...admonish...work’s sake:

Regarding the time he was with them, Paul wrote Ch 2:9-12

Now, Paul, who is in Corinth, desires the church to

- be aware of and considerate of their spiritual leaders, who
 - labor among them...labor in the things of the Lord
- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1 Tim 5:17 | Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. |
| Heb 13:7 | Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of <i>their</i> conversation |

- are over you in the Lord...leading you by following Jesus, not lording over you, but overseers of the spiritual growth/welfare of the fellowship

Christian leadership: Follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd and the Bishop/Overseer of our souls

Mark 10:42-45 *Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

2 Cor 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you

James 3:1

1 Peter 5:1-3 The elders which are among you I exhort... Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock

- admonish you...teach, warn

- esteem them very highly in love/agape for their work's (calling) sake

Eph 4:11-15

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

Acts 20:27 entire counsel of God

2 Tim 3:16-17

v13b be at peace:

As followers of the Prince of Peace, be Christ-like
Be gracious and merciful

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
We are justified by faith and we have this peace with God thru the blood of Jesus'
cross

As children of God, this peace is to also govern our relationships with each other,
as well as with all others

Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all
men.

Rom 14:17 the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and
peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost

Ps 34:12-14 What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth *many* days, that he
may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from
speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and
pursue it.

What body part, if unrestrained by the Holy Spirit, is

- a cesspool of gossip, lies, slander, and flattery?
- inflicts the deepest wounds that are the slowest to heal?

Col 3:8-16 a “package deal” peace, grace, mercy, humility, patience,
forgiveness, wisdom, and the love of God

We are called to live the Gospel of peace (Rom 10:15), to live without strife

James 3:13-18

Phil 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in
lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than
themselves.

Peace is to be cultivated in our hearts

Phil 4:6-9

by the Word of God and the Spirit of God
2 Tim 2:22 follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that
call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Peace is to be cultivated in the Church

2 Cor 13:11 Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in
peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of
peace.

When Jesus is Lord, peace reigns
When Jesus is not Lord, strife and confusion reign
We are to be as our Lord, by surrendering our will to His (sanctification)

v14 warn...comfort...support...be patient:

Walking with Jesus in times of affliction while waiting for His return
(the context of this letter), I am, you are, the Church is to:

1. warn the unruly

- disorderly, insubordinate, defiant
- headstrong; their way vs the Lord's way
- divisive

Rom 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

God is the God of order (1 Cor 14:40), not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Cor 14:33)

2. comfort the feebleminded

encourage the faint-hearted/timid and those who stagger at the promises of God

3. support the weak

weak in the faith...frightened, fearful
weak in body and soul...infirm

Rom 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

In the world, the strong attack and oppress the weak
But we have not so learned Christ

4. be patient toward all

As patient as Jesus is with us!
Grace is the order of the day, every day

v15 evil for evil...good:

Just as the Head of the Body did not (Luke 23:34),
so the Body of Christ is to NEVER return evil for evil but to ALWAYS do good

Be Christ-like before the children of God (sheep bite sometimes)
and the children of the devil

Rom 12:9-10, 14, 17-21

Jesus did not defend Himself, He trusted in the Father
We do not defend ourselves, we trust in the Lord, our Defense
Ps 89:18
Ps 94:22

The Gov't is not our defense, the previous Administration was not our defense
Our trust is not in men or in political leaders, our trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ
Ps 118:8-9

The Constitution of the USA is not our defense, the Lord Jesus Christ is
Col 2:8-10 Is the Constitution impervious to change?
Is Jesus? (Heb 13:8)
Is the Word of God? (Ps 119:80)

Being Spirit-led, we return good for evil, thereby being faithful witnesses of
Good, Light, Life, Love
Phil 2:14-16a

This requires humility and submission to Word of God

v16 Rejoice evermore:

Be joyful!
Let your Light shine!
When?
When can we put on the frumpy face and turn the Light off?

Regardless of circumstances, be joyful in the circumstances!

Joy is contagious...so is discouragement

Prov 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by
sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Prov 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken
spirit drieth the bones.

The joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh 8:10b) as we cast our cares/concerns
upon Jesus Who cares for/is concerned for us (1 Peter 5:7)

Don't let the enemy of our souls steal our joy in temporary, ever-changing
circumstances
The Lord has secured our eternity with His blood – rejoice evermore!

v17 Pray without ceasing:

Prayer:

- worship
- praise
- conversation, dialogue...talking and listening
what people in loving relationships do (Matt 22:36-37, Heb 4:16)

Communication is vital to the health of every relationship
Talk to me, listen to me.
It takes 2

- constant communing/fellowshipping with the One Who is always
before, behind, with, and in us, Who never leaves us
Luke 18:1 always pray and not faint
- things of great import...
healing for Charity, Bob, Evan, Vernon, Diane
repentance for this nation
softening of hearts and the salvation of souls
- mundane things of no real eternal import...
Father, please help me (when at bat in a softball game).
Thank you Father!
- intercession...crying out for the good of others (James 5:16)
e.g. Prayer Requests
- supplication...for our own good

v18 in every thing give thanks:

Give thanks when and for what?

Is anything outside the jurisdiction of giving thanks unto the Lord?

James 1:2-5

Whining, complaining, murmuring, moping are NEVER pleasing to the Father
These are ugly manifestations of an ungrateful and untrusting heart

e.g. my “barking” on Thursday night...my conviction Friday morning
(I don't have to look any further than my own heart for
“sermon material”!)

Give thanks ALWAYS...in every circumstance, even if not for the circumstance
Requires being Spirit-filled (baptized), not filled with Self

In difficult and painful circumstances, a nagging question is “Why?”
We may not know “Why” until we get to heaven because we cannot know all that
God is doing, which is broader and deeper than our finite minds can grasp
But we do know “Who” – the God of peace

For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you:

What does this mean?

1. Every circumstance is God’s will for me?

or

2. Giving thanks in every circumstances is God’s will for me?

A: Sometimes the circumstance is the consequence (reaping) of sin (sowing)...
ours or someone else’s

Giving thanks always is the will of God for us

Rom 8:28

v19 Quench not the Spirit:

The Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit...

3rd Person in the eternal Godhead

How do we “extinguish” the Holy Spirit?

By dousing His “fire” with

“Father, my will be done, not Yours.”

Not Matt 16:24

Not loving our neighbor as ourself

Pride

Self-righteousness

Not doing/being v14-18

Not being Christ-like

Rom 13:14 put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the
flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*

Gal 5:13-18, 22-23

James 1:19-22

v20 Despise not prophesyings:

Prophesying is speaking the words of God, speaking the truth in love for
edification, exhortation, comfort, correction, instruction in righteousness
(1 Cor 14:3, 2 Tim 3:16)

Do not despise the speaking/teaching of the Word of God, even the parts that
“sting”...like some of these words this morning perhaps

Followed by...

v21 Prove all things:
Acts 17:11

Throw away the bad (fleshly, Self, worldly) and cling to the good (Christ-like)
In so doing we 2 Peter 3:18

v22 Abstain from all appearance of evil:
Do not do evil (v15) AND do not that which looks like evil

Requires thinking ahead!

What would “that” look like to a believer?

What would “that” look like to an unbeliever who knows I am a believer?

What would “that” say about my Lord Jesus Christ to another person?

Requires humility and submission to the Word of God

1 Cor 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours
become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.
(1 Thes 5:14)

1 Cor 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their
weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

1 Cor 10:29-33 Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why
is my liberty judged of another *man's* conscience? For if I
by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for
which I give thanks? Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or
whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none
offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the
church of God: Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not
seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they
may be saved.

Exercising the Law of Love –

- a liberty surrendered to not cause a brother/sister to stumble in their walk with Jesus
- a love of others that is greater than the love of self that draws those in darkness into the Light

As well as not giving the enemies of the Lord an opportunity to blaspheme His
name

v23-24 sanctify you wholly...preserved blameless...will do it:

As we submit our will to the Father's will...being Spirit-led and Spirit-filled to

- be at peace amongst ourselves
- warn the unruly
- comfort the feebleminded
- support the weak
- be patient with all people
- never render evil for evil but follow the good
- rejoice evermore
- pray without ceasing
- in everything give thanks
- quench not the Spirit
- despise not the Word of God
- prove all things, holding onto the good
- abstain from all appearance of evil

The Father will do as He promised to do:

- set us apart, renew our mind to make us like-minded and in one accord with Him
- preserve us blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Jude 24-25

1 Peter 1:2-5

Which Return: Bridegroom or Judge?

Phil 1:6 with Rom 8:29

He promised...and not one word of His promises has or will fail
Such is the testimony of Scripture and its prophesying

v25 pray for us:

Family, pray for me and Monica

v26 holy kiss:

The cultural norm at the time, and still is in some cultures
Perhaps a handshake is a better idea today in this culture
Or a hug...but be careful!!!!

In other words: be warm and friendly and inviting,
not cool, aloof, and stand-off-ish

Touch...and be in touch!

v27-28 read...grace:

We read this letter in the Church; read it in your homes
And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ **is** with us!

Application/Lessons

This entire passage of Scripture is to be applied

- in our walks/lives
- in this fellowship

Most likely, we all felt some cringes of conviction
PTL!

Evidence of v23-24

Our role?

Surrender

Submission

Doers of the Word and not hearers only, lest we deceive ourselves