

1 Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 6 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
(week of October 16)

Verse to remember - 1 Thessalonians 5:15
“See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good
to one another and to all.”

Gathering

Opening prayer

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.

1. Although they probably did not yet have “church offices” as we know them, the Thessalonians had leaders who labored among them and for them. Spend some time thinking about the work of those who have charge of you in the Lord. Do you respect and esteem them very highly in love? How do you show this?
2. Fee (p. 209) says that 5:14 treats “matters in which the whole community is to be engaged.” How are you engaged in the following?
Admonish the idlers (“unruly,” “undisciplined”)

Encourage the faint-hearted (“discouraged,” literally “small of soul”)

Help the weak (sick, or physically, emotionally, intellectually, or spiritually weak)

3. Paul tells the Thessalonians to “be patient with all.” (The NRSV adds “of them” for no good reason.) This is the kind of patience that can also be expressed as “longsuffering.” Why is longsuffering so important in a church community?
4. What does it look like for you to obey 5:16-17 (“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing”)?

5. Is there a circumstance in your life in which you are struggling to give thanks (5:18)?

6. Have you seen the Spirit quenched (5:19)? How does it happen?

7. Read 1 Cor. 14:1-5, 26-33a. What is the purpose of prophesying in public worship?
How do you obey 1 Th. 5:20-21 in your context?

8. *“One conventional way of publishing a text in the ancient world was to gather a group of friends who would read the work and then engage one another in a discussion”* (Gaventa, p. 87, on 5:27). That’s what you’re doing now! How does it affect/encourage/change you to participate in corporate scripture reading?

9. Questions for personal application.
What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

Closing prayer and blessing

Consider blessing participants individually or corporately with the words of 5:23-24
- “May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”