

1 Thessalonians 5 Study notes



Opening Prayer:

Gracious Father, as we gather together around your word help us to understand more fully Your truth...Your love...Your care...Your hope for our lives.

Bless our time together and help us to share openly and honestly with each other so we may all be encouraged in our walk with you. Amen.

Just a minute:

Each person is to take 1 minute to note something that engaged them from week 4.

Letters

Did you read 2 Thessalonians? How was it different? Any sweet surprises?

Paul

Paul was well learned in the Psalms, Prophets and Old Testament rabbinical teaching and law. His letters give us an insight into his depth of knowledge and yet how the Old Testament points towards the

coming of the messiah... Saviour... Jesus the Christ. He is attributed to have written 13 of 28 of the New Testament books with 1 Thessalonians considered his first work chronologically. It is thought he was at the stoning of Stephen and if he was not part of the Sanhedrin (special council of 71 Rabbis) he was close to its core. He is an example of a reformed religious extremist. He had set his life on the eradication of the Christians however he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus and his life changed. He never sought the use of violence to promote the gospel. A truly changed heart. He became a follower of Christ around 33 A.D. and died in Rome around 62-64 A.D. Paul teaches on the equalitive nature of the Holy Spirit as a gift to all people who become Christians. He also notes that we have different gifts and these set us apart but also are the bond which holds us together as a body of believers.

Paul is released from his first imprisonment at the age of about 61. He heads back to the mission field and preaches the gospel until he is arrested again and returned to prison. He is Martyred under Emperor Nero.

Read (have this read by someone)

1 Thessalonians 5

Take 10

Discuss the sermon and the reading. What was new or a challenge? How has Paul modelled leadership in this letter and has this changed your view of Paul from before this study series started?

Read

Read Romans 12:17-21. Discuss this passage then think about where the church / Christians sometimes tries to act for God in ungodly ways but justify it as righteous anger or scriptural judgement.

Take 2 mins

In quietness reflect: The call to warn, encourage and help. Why should we warn and not correct someone? Correcting is our natural default.

Now Share

How may we better approach each other in the church when it comes to matters of personal challenge and change?
Does discipline still have a place?

Sermon Pondering

The sermon title for me as a minister this week was “do what needs to be done but ENJOY being church”. Who defines what needs to be done? What things may not need to be done but we do them anyway? What is there to enjoy if we are working so hard for God, we miss it?

Society and Culture

Society affirms leadership predominately on personality types and traits. What do you feel is of utmost importance to good church leadership and why?

Church Culture

Read 1 Cor 12: 12-31– What does it mean for us in church to be a Body of believers. What do you hope for in this body?

Extension:

Quote from the sermon: Don't quench the Spirit. I think many ministries are killed by people who throw a bucket of water over the Holy spirit... it does not need to be baptised ... WE DO!

Why is the modern church often challenged by what the Holy Spirit did in the early church? Why do we often put out its flame?

Thinking about how the Holy Spirit manifests in the scriptures, what would you feel challenged, concerned or accepting of if it happened in our church or community today?

Encouragement

Paul encourages the church to: Be patient with everyone from leaders to congregants, to those outside of the church. Rejoice, pray and give thanks....in all circumstances.

Engage

Why is it sometimes hard for us to accept Paul's encouragement for the ancient church, in Thessalonica, in our lives we live today?

For the week ahead

Challenge: find someone in your church you do not know well and introduce yourself to them.

Read: 1 Thessalonians...all of it! And read it to enjoy it and be encouraged by it!

Prayer

Magnificent Lord,
We thank you for our time together. Thank you for the things we have shared and the insights your Holy Spirit has shown us from your Word. May the Joy we saw in the Thessalonians rekindle afresh our joy and love for you and make our love increase and overflow for one another. May our hearts be strengthened and encouraged to be your faithful people for this Age. Amen