

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Piety Concerning The Word & Spirit”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

October 12 – October 18, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –As we return to our study of 1 Thessalonians we come now to **verses 19-22** of **chapter 5**. In the past several weeks we have seen first our need for *“Piety toward Pastors”* (how we are to live and act toward God ordained church leadership), then *“Piety from the Pews”* (how we are to act and live toward our fellow believers), *“Piety within the Person”* (how we cultivate personal piety from the commands of Holy Scripture), and now finally *“Piety Concerning The Word & Spirit”*. Remember the definition of “Piety” as “reverence for God or devout fulfillment of religious obligations.” In our text, we will see how we as believers are to think and behave concerning The Word of God and The Spirit’s work within us by The Word which enables us to live a reverent and obedient life toward God. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.

MONDAY –Our text begins with the command, *“Do not quench the Spirit.”* The word translated *“quench”* is a word which means “to extinguish, suppress, and stifle.” It speaks to fire or things burning and the metaphor given is an obvious one concerning the work of the Spirit of God as a burning fire working within us as believers through sacred Scripture. The Spirit of God illuminates the truth of God to us and He brings light to our understanding by pointing us to the *“true light of the world”* Jesus Christ as He is seen and declared in the *“light”*, the Word of God. We will see tomorrow there is a broader understanding of this command as well as the specific one in this context regarding The Spirit’s work through *“prophecies”* (**vs. 20**). Paul exhorted his young protégé Timothy concerning this very type of thing when he instructed him to *“fan the flame of the gift of God within you”*. It is our duty as believers not to stifle the precious work of grace within us. We will see tomorrow the many ways we do this. Read **Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 63:10, 2 Timothy 1:6, Hebrews 6:4**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to be obedient and not quench The Spirit’s work within me through the living Word. Thank You for the light of Your truth.

TUESDAY –We understand through Scripture that God not merely gives opportunity to His elect concerning the Gospel. His work in us is efficacious as He opens our eyes to see, He causes us to see, and He keeps His own secure

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

eternally (**Acts 16:14, Ephesians 2:1, 1 Peter 1:5, 2:9-10**). What God here commands in our text, He Himself accomplishes inwardly. Yet, it is incumbent upon us to ask the Lord as Calvin says, to “furnish oil to the lamps which he has lighted up, that he may keep the wick pure, and may even increase it”. We are admonished not to choke or quench the work of God within us by sinful actions and attitudes. We are not to douse the flame with any sin. Albert Barnes says, “Neglect of cultivating the Christian graces, or of prayer, of the Bible, of the sanctuary, of a careful watchfulness over the heart, will do it. Worldliness, vanity, levity, ambition, pride, the love of dress, or indulgence in an improper train of thought, will do it. It is a great rule in religion that all the piety which there is in the soul is the fair result of culture. A man has no more religion than he intends to have; he has no graces of the Spirit which he does not seek; he has no deadness to the world which is not the object of his sincere desire, and which he does not aim to have. Any one, if he will, may make elevated attainments in the divine life; or he may make his religion merely a religion of form, and know little of its power and its consolations.” Read **Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:16**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me treasure Jesus above everything. Grant me grace to be obedient and thankful for Your work within me for Your glory.

WEDNESDAY –Our text continues with, “*Do not despise prophecies.*” Although there is some difference of opinion regarding this word “*prophecies*”, we can conclude from the text that the “*prophecies*” here described are in accordance with the work of the Spirit using the Word of God. As the previous verse explained, we see that in neglecting or here “*despising*” the means of grace, primarily the Word of God being taught and explained we as Matthew Henry comments, “forfeit the Spirit of grace”. Scripture clearly shows “*prophecies*” as being both inspired teaching, and predicting the future. We will comment more on this Lord willing this Lord’s Day. Suffice to say for today, believers in this passage are commanded not to despise or “make of no account” the *prophecies* they hear. True prophecy has its foundation in the truths of God’s Word. Read these verses which speak to this matter of “prophecies” as well as point to the central figure of prophecy which is Jesus Christ and His person and work as revealed to us in Sacred Scripture. **Matthew 13:14, 1 Corinthians 14:3, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Revelation 19:10**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to hear with great reverence and understanding Your proclaimed Word. Help me obey it and not quench The Spirit.

THURSDAY –As we mentioned yesterday fallen, sinful men are inclined to latch onto much of what goes under the name of “prophecy” and regard it as God’s truth. We are instructed that as believers we are to, “*Test all things...*” There are two extremes that are embraced here which we must be careful. First, many despise the teaching and preaching of God’s Word and to rationalize their disobedience to it merely label it as the “preacher’s opinion”. Secondly, there are

believers who will believe anything that comes from a pulpit, over the air waves, through the TV screen, or to their door via mail or visitor that has on it the label, “God’s Word”. The enemy of our souls is a mighty deceiver who leads many astray with his twisting and perverting the true Word of God. This is why God commands us as believers who have His Spirit within us to “*test*” what we hear. The Greek word dokimazo is the word used in describing the proving of metals, which are examined and heated to determine whether they are genuine or not. This is the approach we are to take to what we hear as “prophecy” from the Lord. It is by His Spirit and examination of the whole counsel of God through the Word that we come to determine truth from error. Read **Acts 17:11, Ephesians 4:11-14**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, give me wisdom from Your Word and by The Holy Spirit to discern truth from error. Help me cultivate a love of studying Scripture.

FRIDAY –O how we need wisdom from God as did these believers in Thessalonica when it comes to this matter of testing what we hear. Many who profess to be God’s called teachers are teaching things contrary to God’s Word and according to Scripture are to be silenced (**Titus 1:10-11**). This is one reason why there is a strong list of qualifiers for those who would stand in the place of pastor, bishop, and overseer. Even God’s ordained men are fallen and sinful and are prone to err at times in teaching. So we are called to “*test*” and then to “*hold fast what is good.*” What is found to be kalos (“good”) is to be katecho (“held fast”). We are to embrace, keep firm possession of and secure what is found to be beautiful and true in accordance with the word of God. This duty calls for God given discernment. Read **Hebrews 5:13-14**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me strive to be discerning and teach me that I come to that point by being skilled and trained by Your Word.

SATURDAY –The flip side of the coin from yesterdays point of “*holding fast*” what is good is found in the last verse of our text which says, “*Abstain from every form of evil*”. This verse is often used as a blanket statement regarding believers and their comportment. Although this is true that we are to be careful in the manner in which we behave the primary meaning here of this phrase comes from the context of testing words of prophecy. Instead of holding onto what is false and erroneous, we are to “*abstain*” or “hold one’s self off, refrain” from that which is “*evil*”. In The Lord’s Prayer we find this same word for evil (poneros) when Jesus teaches us to pray that we would be delivered from “evil”. As our missionary Brent Meyers once told me, when we hear teaching it is often like eating fish, “You need to spit out the bones”. Read **John 7:17, John 17:17**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, sanctify me by Your truth, Your Word is truth.