

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

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The Duty of Pastors & People”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

September 7 – September 13, 2008

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL 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

THE LORD'S DAY – As we return this week to our study in **1 Thessalonians 5** we begin to move toward the close of the letter where we find the Apostle Paul, Silas, and Timothy giving various practical instructions to these believers. In light of all that has been said about the return of Jesus, the Day of The Lord and the final victory and deliverance for the “*sons of light*”, we are now given some directives on how to live, act, and grow in grace in the Christian life as we wait. This weeks text instructs us how the people in the body of Christ and specifically the local body (local church) are to act toward those who serve and work and are “*over them in the Lord*” as their pastors. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**.

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 words, “*And we urge you, brethren...*” The Greek word here translated as “*urge*” can be defined as “to request, entreat, beg, beseech”. The Apostle Paul is here addressing this matter in a gentle, loving manner. He is “*urging*” or “requesting, beseeching” these people as if he were asking a personal favor of them. Remember that these Thessalonians were growing spiritually and maturing and were living such a way that Paul said they were examples to others (**1 Thessalonians 1:7-9**). As they were growing and maturing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ Paul appeals to them to be aware and to understand their duty toward those who shepherd them and care for them as sheep under the great shepherd Jesus Christ. Read **John 10:1-18**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Ask the Lord to help you to understand the significance of your position in Christ and your responsibility as a sheep of the Great Shepherd.

TUESDAY –The text continues by telling the “*brethren*” they are to “*recognize those who...*” We will see in the words that follow there is a description given us concerning the position of spiritual authority in the local church which is found carried out by the ministers who occupy the office as described in Scripture as that of “Elder, Overseer, Bishop, and Pastor”. When the Scripture says that the people are to “*recognize*” their ministers, it is not speaking of the mere ability to see them and recognize them as “Pastor ____”. The Greek word is the word *eido* and carries with it the meaning of “knowing, and experiencing”. These brethren in Thessalonica were to have a relationship, regard and respect for their leaders. They were to recognize their office, and treat them accordingly. Scripture makes it clear

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that the people of God are to treat their spiritual leaders with reverence and even in practical means such as with liberality in supplying their needs (**1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Corinthians 9:14**). The local assembly here in Thessalonica was newly established and we learn from Scripture that it seems Paul's practice was to ordain Elders in these local churches soon after they were established (**Acts 14:23**). With the newness of this church and possibly their ministers as well, Paul quickly points out the relationship which is to exist between the people of God and the Pastors.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help us to recognize those whom You have placed over us in The Lord and treat them as You have commanded.*

WEDNESDAY –The next phrase in our text contains the description we spoke of earlier in regards to the task of God appointed shepherds in His church. The text says, “...those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you...” This phrase does not speak to three distinct classes of ministers but rather to different parts of the same work which the one position fulfills. Today we will only see the first description of “labor among you”. The Greek word *kopiaio* which means “to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief)” describes the true minister and his life perfectly. There are many aspects of the work of the minister which bring weariness but the primary task in view is the job of preaching the gospel to the lost as well as to the people of God. This is a task which requires extreme diligence and if done properly in both preparation and delivery will reduce a man to weariness and exhaustion. As Calvin says, “...all idle bellies are excluded from the number of pastors.” Men, called to be ministers are called to be laborers and not loiterers. As we saw earlier in the week the Scripture informs us that these men of God are to be laboring “in the Word and Doctrine” and in “prayer and ministry of the Word”. Read **1 Timothy 5:17, Acts 6:1-4**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Pray for those men of God who labor among you. Ask God to help you understand the eternal importance of this work and to give strength.*

THURSDAY –The last two parts of **verse 12** speak to the authority and instruction that shepherds are to give to the people of God. They are to exercise authority as the text says they are “over you in the Lord”. The Greek means to “set or place before, be over, preside over” and it speaks to the position leadership and direction that comes as the responsibility of pastor. The phrase “in the Lord” is necessary for us to see the meaning here clearly. True shepherds in God's church are men who are not self appointed but rather appointed and gifted by God Himself to this noble task. The Scripture is saying that Elders stand in the place of the Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ as His delegated undershepherds. They come to minister to God's people in the name of Jesus Himself which grants them the authority. They provide God's people oversight, direction, and leadership. They also “admonish you”. This word is found 8 times in the NT and could be translated “warn” as well. It refers to the task of taking the Word of God and bringing it to

bear in a person's life by admonishing, warning, and instructing so that they may be changed or correct wrong living. The task of shepherding God's people requires skill to be able to instruct them effectively with the Scripture as well as providing Biblical leadership and oversight from a position of authority which is a process which requires the toil and labor mentioned at the beginning of this verse. No man is fit in his own strength for this job and it is God's grace alone which keeps his ministers qualified and strengthened for the task. Read **2 Corinthians 3:5-6, Hebrews 5:4, Titus 1:7-9**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank God for giving his church men of God to lead, direct, and even admonish us to live Godly lives. Pray for your leaders to be kept, protected from falling, and strengthened for this task by God's grace.*

FRIDAY –The people of God are told in **verse 13** to “esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.” Albert Barnes comments on this phrase: “To cherish for them an affectionate regard. The office of a minister of religion demands respect. They who are faithful in that office have a claim on the kind regards of their fellow-men. The very nature of the office requires them to do good to others, and there is no benefactor who should be treated with more affectionate regard than he who endeavors to save us from ruin; to impart to us the consolations of the gospel in affliction; and to bring us and our families to heaven.” The Greek language here in the phrase “esteem...very highly” calls for a limitless respect. Furthermore, we see that this is to be “in love” with an understanding of “their work”. The personality of the pastor is not in view here or whether you like him as a man, but rather the call for respect and love for your shepherds is based on the fact their work is to feed you Divine truth and “watch for your souls”. Read **Hebrews 13:7, 17**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to love and respect the men You have put over me in the Lord. Help us to be humble in whatever position You have us.*

SATURDAY –We wrap this text with a call to “be at peace among yourselves.” Calvin comments: “For Paul, in my opinion, had in view to oppose the artifices of Satan, who ceases not to use every endeavor to stir up either quarrels, or disagreements, or enmities, between people and pastor. Hence we see daily how pastors are hated by their Churches for some trivial reason, or for no reason whatever, because this desire for the cultivation of peace, which Paul recommends so strongly, is not exercised as it ought.” Pastors must pray for humility. They are sinners as well, and don't know everything, yet God has placed them by His Sovereign choice. This text calls us to love, peace, harmony, and unity.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help us all to be humble and to live in Your peace!*