

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

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*“The Source of Sanctification”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

**October 19 – October 25, 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** –In this week’s text found in **verses 23-24** of **1 Thessalonians chapter 5** we read the beginning of the benediction of this letter from the pen of the Apostle Paul. He is summarizing all he has said in this epistle by teaching the Thessalonians as well as all genuine believers the “*source*” of our sanctification and obedience to all the commands of both this letter and Sacred Scripture in general. There is great comfort and encouragement in these words which I pray will stir you up to obedience and faith to our Lord Jesus Christ. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**.

*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 Paul offering up a prayer to “*the God of peace*” in **verse 23**. God alone is the God of peace, love, and grace. This Greek word translated “*peace*” refers to “tranquility, harmony, concord, security, safety, and the exemption from the rage and havoc of war”. God is the author of peace and we find in Him our source of security amidst the raging sea of sin and its horrible affects. Paul has spoken in this Epistle to many things that may be unsettling , specifically to his mention of The Day of The Lord and The second Coming of Jesus Christ which will bring judgment and calamity on all those who have not obeyed the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. But for us as God’s children, we understand and turn to “*the God of peace*” who has made us “*accepted in the beloved*” through the work of Jesus Christ who in our place satisfied the wrath of God for our sin. Sacred Scripture speaks of God as “*peace*” in many places. Read **Romans 15:33, 16:20, Philippians 4:9, and Hebrews 13:20**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for being the God of Peace. Jesus, praise to You for making peace with God for me by Your sacrifice on the cross for my sin.*

**TUESDAY** –We notice that Paul leads us in prayer to the only one who can bring about true and genuine change in us. He prays that God “*Himself*” would “*sanctify*” us “*completely*”. Unless God Himself works in us His will and good pleasure our entire human effort is unprofitable. This is not to say that we are not commanded to “*work out our salvation with fear and trembling*”. But the point is made that as Calvin says, “all doctrine is useless until God engraves it, as it were, with his own finger upon our hearts.” Knowing our weakness and impotency we

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must turn to God Himself to open our understanding, and open our ears to hear His Word and then work in us by His Spirit to obey. God has reconciled us to Himself through the person and work of Jesus Christ, washing us and cleansing us through the blood of Christ. It is then only fitting to recognize that it is God Himself who also works in us to bring peace of conscience, and unity among the saints, and happiness and prosperity, both in this world, and in that which is to come. Read **Philippians 2:12-13**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for loving me enough to work out Your will and good pleasure in my life. Help me to glorify You by obeying Your Word.*

**WEDNESDAY** –The word “*sanctify*” (hagiazō) is defined among other things as “to separate from profane things and dedicate to God”. It is God who sets us apart to Himself. We read that Paul prays that we be “*completely*” sanctified. Men may try to be righteous and are even commanded to “*be holy for I am Holy*” (**Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:15-16**) but it is God alone who can “*completely*” separate us from sin to holiness. We in no way are to minimize the command to pursue holiness but we must realize that it is ultimately a work of God. Calvin says it beautifully: “The Thessalonians, it is true, had been in part renewed, but Paul desires that God would perfect what is remaining. From this we infer, that we must, during our whole life, make progress in the pursuit of holiness. But if it is the part of God to renew the whole man, there is nothing left for free will. For if it had been our part to cooperate with God, Paul would have spoken thus — “May God aid or promote your sanctification.” But when he says, *sanctify you wholly*; he makes him the sole Author of the entire work.” Read **1 Peter 5:10-11**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, all glory and dominion is Yours forever and ever. Thank You for promising to work in me as Your child. Help me to be holy.*

**THURSDAY** –Paul further illustrates the point of the word “*completely*” when he prays that our “*whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved...*” I do not believe that Paul is here speaking to a “dichotomist” or “trichotomist” view of man (whether he is a two or three part being) but is rather emphasizing that the entire man is to be “*completely*” preserved and made holy. Scripture language is clear in many places that man is made up of both “corruptible”, “mortal” (material) and “incorruptible”, “immortal” (immaterial). We find this explained to us back in the garden where God “*breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*” and man became a “*living soul*” (**Genesis 2:7**). God also made it clear to man that in the fall he began to die (**Genesis 2:17**) and his physical body would return to dust in death (**Genesis 3:19**). Tomorrow we will take this thought further as we continue in the text, but suffice to say now God will see to it that His people will be “*completely*” sanctified. From **Genesis 3:15** notice again it is in the promised “*Seed*” Jesus Christ that ultimate, final, and complete victory over sin, death, and the curse would come.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for Your eternal plan through the person and work of Your Son Jesus that is our surety of final and complete victory.*

**FRIDAY** –Paul moves in our text to again mention the timing of the great reality of being made complete. He says, “*...be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” We as God’s people are being conformed into the image of Christ in this life (**Romans 8:28-30**) and progress in purity is commanded and will be manifest in some degree in the lives of God’s children, but we realize that complete an entire sanctification is never to be met with in this life, as long as we live in this world. It is at the “*parousia*”, the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of our Lord Jesus that we will see Him and be made like Him (**1 John 2:28-29, and 1 John 3:1-3**). John Gill comments: “preserved blameless; not that he thought they could be kept from sinning entirely in thought, word, or deed; but that they might be preserved in purity and chastity from the gross enormities of life, and be kept from a total and final falling away, the work of grace be at last completed on the soul and spirit, and the body be raised in incorruption, and glory; and both at the coming of Christ be presented faultless, and without blame, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, first to himself, and then to his Father.” Read **Ephesians 5:25-27, 32**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil. Help me to fight the fight of faith and keep me until the last day.*

**SATURDAY** –In **verse 24** Paul drops an “atomic bomb” of truth if you will when he says, “*He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it*”. This beloved is our true and lasting surety, the ground of our confidence, God is faithful, even when we are not (**2 Timothy 2:11-13**). Divine grace is sure and safe because it is just that “*Divine*”. God is the one who has called His people and brought them out of darkness and into His marvelous light and He will not let them fall away or perish (**John 10:29-30**). As the Psalmist said in **Psalms 138:8**, He will not leave the work of His hands incomplete. None of God’s chosen ones will be lost, He will bring them to Glory and they will be experience full and final “*glorification*” (**Romans 8:30**). Read and meditate on these final two verses. **Philippians 1:6, Jude 24-25**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to see and savor the wonder of Your glorious grace. Help me exalt and embrace Jesus Christ as my only treasure and hope. Help me proclaim His gospel to those who are lost in sin, Amen.*