

Advice for a Successful Congregation: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Discussion:

I. Recognize (12-13)

- A. Paul is most likely speaking about elders over the church
 - 1. There is only one article here in the Greek, so the person is supposed to fit all of these.
 - 2. We have no evidence that the church at Thessalonica had any elders at this time but we know that Paul had established elders pretty quickly in other churches. Paul's first missionary journey, he established churches and then two weeks later, he went back and established elders.
 - 3. The leaders were to be held in high esteem because of their work not their qualities Heb. 13:17
 - 4. Live at peace with one another- it seems as though there may have been a problem between those who were left in charge and those who were in subjection to the. Paul's advice is going to be for those who are under the leadership to be better at submitting.
- B. Those who diligently labor among you
 - 1. Appreciate (*oida*) - to know in order to appreciate (Hebrews 13:7, 17).
 - 2. Labor (*kopiaio*) - refers to a laborious toil to the point of weariness 1 Timothy 5:17-28.
- C. Those that have charge over you and give you instruction (admonish)
 - 1. Charge (*proistemi*) - rule, direct, be at the head of. Only the elders were ever left in charge over a congregation (Same word as manage in 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, also as rule in 1 Tim. 5:17).
 - 2. In the Lord- we are speaking of whom the lord left over the church (Acts 20:28; 1 Pt. 5:1-3).
 - 3. Give Instruction (*moutheteo*) - it carries the idea of an older brother counseling the younger.

II. Restore (14-15)

- A. Admonish the unruly (lazy)- pertains to a soldier who cannot keep up while marching 2 Th. 3:11-13).
- B. Encourage (console) the fainted hearted (discouraged) (1 Th. 4:13-18).
- C. Help (strong interest) the weak- Romans 15:1
- D. Be patient with everyone- these ↑ take work and patience
- E. See that no one repays evil for evil- This admonishment forbids the natural tendency to retaliate (Rom 12:17-21).
- F. Seek the good for one another (Christians) and all people (non-Christians) - love motivates the seeking of good (1 Cor. 10:33; 13:1-8).

III. Respond (16-22)

- A. This is the will of God for you: (none of these are based upon circumstance but commands because of what God has done for us. Ephesian 1:3).
 - 1. Rejoice always (John 10:10; Romans 8:28-39)
 - 2. Pray without ceasing (continually) (Hebrews 4:14-16; Luke 18:1)
 - 3. In everything give thanks- not for everything but in everything (Phil 4:4-13).
- D. Do not quench the spirit (both miraculous and non-miraculous 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Gal 5:22-23; 4:8)
 - 1. Do not despise prophetic gifts (utterances) (1 Cor. 14:32) It still applies (1 Tim 4:16).
 - 2. Examine everything carefully (1 John 4:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:22 Corinthians 13:5).
 - 3. Hold fast to that which is good (2 Tim 2:14-15; Phil 4:8-9).
 - 3. Abstain from every form (type) of evil- this has been misapplied and not properly translated. It does not mean if something even appears evil, or someone thinks you will be doing evil by partaking in something. It is actually saying abstain from every type of evil, something that is actually evil. Or we would have the most exhaustive of lives because there are people that call everything evil, internet, TV, restaurants, magazines, paying taxes, etc...

IV. Read (23-28)

- A. God is Faithful
 - 1. Sanctification is a must (1 Thess. 4:3-8; 3:11-13).
 - 2. God will bring all His promises to pass (Heb. 6:13-12).
- B. Farewell
 - 1. Pray for Paul, Timothy, Silas and Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss
 - 2. Have this letter read to all the brethren (1 Tim 4:13)