

Our Hope is in What God is Doing

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28

Week's Core Competency:

Peace- I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6) And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

In 1933, a bowling enthusiast named Bill Knox bowled a flawless game. He made a perfect strike on all 12 frames. Certainly, this was a reflection of his love for the sport and evidence of the hours of practice that he put in each week. However, if this was all that he accomplished, it is hardly noteworthy. What made his accomplishment truly remarkable? Mr. Knox bowled a perfect game without ever seeing the bowling pins. He was demonstrating the efficacy of something that he called "spot bowling". He had a screen set up just inside the foul line that completely blocked his view of the pins and all but the closest 2-3 feet of the lane. He then aimed at a selected spot on the floor a few feet in front of him that he knew was in line with the pins. Spot bowling proved to be an accepted way of ensuring consistency and accuracy. You see, Knox understood that you can be more effective when you focus on a spot near to you that is also in line with the pins.

Spot bowling illustrates part of a wise approach to life. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the return of Christ, he reminded them that the ultimate goal of their salvation was to "be blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul taught them to focus their eyes on near actions that were in line with that goal. He urged them to comfort one another, help the weak, warn the wayward, pray without ceasing, and rejoice always. Then he added that we must do this in the power of Christ who is working in us.

This Week

As you study this week, look for practical ways to apply Paul's final instructions to your everyday life. Listen for the Holy Spirit's quiet voice as He leads you. Choose to live in a way that reflects your love for the Lord, is consistent with your calling in Christ, and allows the Spirit freedom to work in and through you. "The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

12 Now we ask you, brothers, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you,

13 and to regard them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

14 And we exhort you, brothers: warn those who are irresponsible, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

15 See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all.

16 Rejoice always!

17 Pray constantly.

18 Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Don't stifle the Spirit.

20 Don't despise prophecies,

21 but test all things. Hold on to what is good.

22 Stay away from every kind of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely. And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brothers, pray for us also.

26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brothers.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. a) To whom might Paul be referring in your life (and church) when he says, "those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord" in verses 12-13?

b) How might you show those who you listed above thanks, encouragement, and regard "in love"?

2. If you had to provide a topical heading in your Bible for verses 14-15, what would it say?

3. What do you think Paul means when he says to comfort the discouraged (verse 14)? What if you honestly want to but you cannot find the time?

4. Give examples today of someone that might be considered “weak” (verse 14)? The following scriptures may help get you started.

James 1:27

James 2: 15-16

Romans 15:1

5. a) Why is it that we, as Christians, are instructed not to pay back wrong for wrong?

- b) If someone wrongs us, would you consider not forgiving that wrong as “paying back wrong for wrong” or is there a subtle difference? Explain your answer.

- c) Consider in your own heart, who the Lord might be calling you to forgive?

6. From verses 16-22 list each command that Paul gives, clarify what you think he meant by the command, and write down several possible practical applications for that command.

Command	Clarify what this means	Application
<i>Be joyful</i>	<i>Experiencing a joy that is not based on circumstances but rather on your salvation through Jesus Christ and your relationship with God through faith.</i>	<i>Thanking God for all your blessing Focusing on whatever is good, lovely, pure... Not focusing on your circumstances Praising God for who He is and what He has done</i>

7. From verse 23, If God does the work of sanctification, why does Paul bother with these instructions for holy living?

8. What is your favorite verse from this passage and why?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ