

Three Questions that require an answer

1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

Introduction: Looking back over everything God has given through this study we can sum it up into three questions that require an answer. Paul closes his epistle in a very challenging manner. He doesn't just ask for their cordial wishes. Paul reaches into their heart with three expectations. As I studied these expectations I looked back over months of prayer, study and preaching. As a result Gods word has revealed a treasure chest of His direction and wisdom for our lives. Your attitude can be one of two this morning, you can say "boy I am glad this is over" or you can say "I want to know more." Your attitude about God and His word reveals your true spiritual condition! This morning the word of God is going to challenge your spiritual condition and it will be challenged through "Three questions that require and answer." I want to ask...

I. Are you praying for Gods work and His workers? V.25

"God is gracious, God is good, God I thank you for my food, Amen" is a great prayer for our children church. But, not so good for someone who has spent years or decades in church!

- A. Effective prayer is sincere
- B. Effective prayer is consistent
- C. Effective prayer is fervent (passionate)

A Christian with a proper prayer life is a Christian who supports the work of God!

II. Are you supporting Gods work and His workers? V. 26

- A. Support is found in your physical attendance
- B. Support is found outside the walls of the church
- C. Support is found in your resources

A Christian who supports the work of God is involved with the work of God!

III. Are you involved with Gods work as His worker? V.27

- A. (Personal) Gods work starts with you
- B. (Congregational) Gods work is seen in the local church
- C. (Associational) Gods work spreads to other areas

Conclusion: The word of God repeats this message over and over. Using many characters and circumstances, yet the theme remains constant. The work of God is leading people to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. But, it doesn't stop there, it the work of Gods people to develop into disciples. We must desire it in our personal lives first, then teach it to the next generation. Discipleship is not your family tradition regarding where to go to church, why to go to church and when to go to church. Discipleship is an unrestricted, unreserved and unrepentant following of Jesus Christ. And, it must start with you and I. Your spiritual walk, your support and your involvement with Gods work must come from the desire of a disciple. (Invitation hymn) Paul closes his epistle to the Thessalonians with this "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Salvation comes by God's grace. I want to invite you to Jesus this morning, to meet Him as your Lord and savior. I also want to remind you, salvation is the beginning, not the end. Your new life in Jesus Christ is a life of discipleship and it should be desired. Will you find new life in Jesus Christ, will You renew your desire for discipleship and dedication to your Lord and Savior? As we sing will you come?