

*Edgemont Bible Church*  
*Pastor Al Osden*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:25-28*

Feb. 19, 2017

Intro: Post Script

XIX Final Requests

A. Request for Prayer - vs 25

1. His first parting desire

a. the need for prayer for the leadership

b. Ro 15:30; 2 Co 1:11; Eph 6:18-20; Phil 1:19; Col 4:2-4; Phi 22

2. Brethren,

a. **adelphos** - a brother (literally or figuratively) near or remote.

b. used repeatedly showing affection - 1:4; 2:1,9,17; 3:7; 4:1,10; 5:1,12,14

c. In the emphatic position which would include all of them

3. Us

a. includes his co-laborers

b. All three had prayed for them - "We give thanks" - 1:2

4. Pray

a. present tense meaning continually

b. Consistent with other requests for prayer - 2 Co 11:29

5. Pray for

a. Safety -

i. 2Th 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that ..... and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men; for all have not faith.

ii. unreasonable and evil men - refers to outrageously wicked, hostile to Paul and sought to harm him

b. Wisdom for service

i. Ro 15:31b and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

ii. Service

- not referring to preaching and teaching of doctrine

- **diakonia** - attendance (as a servant); aid, (official) service (ad-)minister(-ing, -tration, -try), office, relief, service(-ing).

- the collection of money from the Gentile churches for the poor of the Jerusalem Church - Acts 11:27-30; 1 Co 16:1-3; 2 Co 8-9

c. Future plans and priorities be consistent with the will of God

i. Ro 15:32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

ii. Jas 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit" whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

d. Effectiveness in Preaching the Word of God

i. Eph 6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

ii. Col 4:3-4 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

iii. 2Th 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

e. Spiritual Strength for Ministerial Integrity

i. 1Co 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

ii. Heb 13:18 Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.

B. Request for Affection - vs 26

1. Display loving affection for one another - Jo 13:35

2. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss

a. a common conclusion to Paul's letters - Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12; cf. 1 Pet 5:14

b. all the brethren - none are to be left out

c. Greeting a superior with a kiss on the foot, knee, elbow, or hand in the culture was common

d. Friends kissed one another on the cheek - Judas' betrayal - Mt 26:49

e. became a symbol among believers of genuine love and affection

i. more than ritual gesture - hand shake of today

ii. Used whenever believers met

f. the custom was abandoned when abuses became a problem in the thirteenth century - replaced by hand shake or embrace

C. Request for Submission - vs 27

1. I charge you

a. **horkizo** - to put on oath, make swear; to solemnly enjoin:--adjure, charge.

- b. A call to the elders by solemn oath to make sure that all heard the letter
- 2. by the Lord - making this oath solemn
- 3. that this epistle be **read** to
  - a. connotes the reading of the epistle in the public worship service
  - b. public reading was essential to spiritual accountability - 2 Th 3:14; 1 Tim 4:13
    - i. Initially, there was only one copy
    - ii. Many were illiterate
    - iii. The letter was to be read as God's Word
      - a revelation from heaven
      - it was true, authoritative, requiring belief and obedience
  - c. Concerned with the people response to Paul not coming in person,
    - i. they may have neglected the epistle
    - ii. He especially wanted them to be encouraged in their time of trial with the eschatological passages - 1 Th 4:13-5:11

#### D. Benediction to the Thessalonians - vs 28

- 1. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
  - a. Paul always starts and ends with grace - Ro 1:7; 16:20; 1 Co 1:3; 16:23; Gal 1:3; 6:18 2Th 1:2; 3:18
  - b. Grace is at the heart of Christian theology - Jo 1:14,17; Ro 3:24; Eph. 1:7; 2:5; Tit 3:7
  - c. Grace summarizes all that God provides in Christ - Ro 4:16; 1 Co 15:10; 2 Co 9:8; 2 Th 1:11-12; 2 Pet 3:18
- 2. Paul's closing remarks are the desire of all Pastors
  - a. that their people would pray for them
  - b. That their people would have and demonstrate real love and affection to one another
  - c. That their people would hear, read, study, and apply God's word

#### Application:

Men are trying to accomplish the mission given by God, through man-centered methods, programs, and strategies. They minimize the importance of faith, prayer, aligning with God's will. This is a divine mission. It can only be truly accomplished as we seriously and faithfully pray to be empowered by God.