



C O R N E R S T O N E  
B A P T I S T C H U R C H

**“Final Imperatives”**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

I. In closing, the apostle first asks for the Thessalonians to conduct themselves well within the local church.

a. The congregation is asked to respect spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and to hold them in high esteem for their work (5:12-13).

*1 Corinthians 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 3:4; Ephesians 3:20; Romans 5:14*

b. The congregation is commanded to be at peace with \_\_\_\_\_ (5:13b).

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

II. Paul follows with a series of imperative commands, much in the same way he ends all of his letters:

a. The first commands are to work \_\_\_\_\_ with the idle/disorderly and the weak (5:14).

*2 Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 14:1-3*

b. The second commands prohibit \_\_\_\_\_ and revenge, prescribing in their place the \_\_\_\_\_ of good for the other individual (5:15)!

*1 John 2:9-11; 3:23*

- c. The third commands relate to our \_\_\_\_\_ towards God, that we are rejoicing, be in prayer and live life with thanksgiving (5:16-18.).
- d. The final commands relate to truth: That we seek it out and obey it by allowing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to work in our hearts (5:19-22).

*1 Corinthians 13:8; Matthew 16:18b; Ephesians 3:10*

Questions for Tonight:

1. The last shall be first and the first shall be last passages. Do they mean that the last can finish ahead of the first or that we all finish with the same salvation (not in terms of reward, but in terms of access to and acceptance by God)? Sample reading: Mathew 20:1-16
2. Do you see evidence that leaders in 1 Thessalonians 5:12 office holders such as elders and pastors or do you see evidence that the concern is broader than that?
3. Compare the closing remarks of 1 Thessalonians with the closing remarks of another letter or two (Ephesians, Galatians, or Romans)—what are the similarities, what are the differences tailored to the circumstance?