

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Wednesday Sermon

Date: June 3, 2020

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-20

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-20

Subject: Admonishment to the Holy Brethren of the Church

Last time, we considered verses 1 through 11 of this chapter. Blessed it was to understand that we are always aware of the soon coming of our LORD – and that we are bound to be awake, aware, and watching continuously so that day does not come on us unawares.

Let us now consider verses 12 through 20 of this 5th chapter of 1st Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (KJV) *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, -- This is a wonderful pleading from the apostle concerning those whose work it is to feed (tend) the flock and to preach the word of the LORD. We should know them which labor among us. Let us become more acquainted with them who labor in the word and doctrine; who give themselves up to meditation, reading, and prayer; those who labor hard in private to find out the meaning of the word of God; those who study to show themselves as workmen that need not be ashamed; those who preach the word in season and out of season; faithfully oversaw and dispensed baptism and the Lord's Supper, and who diligently performed the duties of their office; those who were willing to spend and be spent

for the glory of Christ and the good of souls, and who earnestly contended for the faith of the Gospel once for all delivered unto the saints. Brothers and sisters, these men in whom you have seen the qualifications of a bishop do this for our good and for the building up of our faith.

and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you – These men have been set over you in the office of a bishop to teach us the word of God and give the sense; to tend and oversee the flock of God which is the church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. These have learned to rule their own houses well and therefore are aptly qualified to rule the house of God by example and by word. These men admonish us. What does that mean? To admonish is to warn or notify of a fault; to reprove with mildness. It means to counsel and caution against false or sinful practices. Theirs it is to PREACH THE WORD...to REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT with all longsuffering and doctrine. It is our duty to listen and give heed to their manner and the word which they preach from God's Holy Bible. These men must give account of how they watched for our souls – let us, therefore obey them and submit ourselves that their watching for our souls may be with joy and not with grief. If we do not – brethren, THAT IS UNPROFITABLE FOR **US!!!**

Hebrews 13:17 (KJV) *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. – To esteem is to value them very highly in love for their work's sake. The work of the ministry is a wonderful thing when done by faithful men. Peace among yourselves? Do you think it strange that this clause is found in the context of esteeming ministers for their work's sake?

Undoubtedly, some who kick at the word of God preached by Godly men soon find for themselves partners among the flock who are willing to cast unsavory things against the man who preaches God's word. In a word, because something the pastor said touched us in a weak place, and stirred our righteous soul so that we go home from the preaching service and have "roast preacher" for dinner, thereby creating dissention among the saints of God. O, brothers and sisters, it is manifestly true that a man who desires the office of a Bishop desires a GOOD WORK!

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (KJV) *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, -- How would the preacher know an unruly person? What does that mean? This is one who visibly disregards restraints; he or she is licentious; disposed to violate laws; turbulent; ungovernable; as an unruly youth. So some of us in the church see this, what are we to do? We are to warn them who do and advocate doing such things. Let us all be law keepers and not law breakers. Let us be sane, sensible, and wise to do good.

Proverbs 28:4 (KJV) *They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.*

This could mean the law of our fathers and mothers or the law of the land. Most certainly, it refers to the perfect law of liberty (The New Covenant) in which we all desire to walk faithfully.

Comfort the feebleminded, -- These are weak of mind; and lack firmness. These also, I believe, are those who have a weak conscience. such as are not able to bear the loss of near and dear relations; are ready to stagger under the burden of the cross, and at the reproaches and persecutions of the world; and are almost set

back with the temptations of Satan; and are borne down and discouraged with the corruptions of their hearts. Let all of us in the church, when we recognize this, speak a comfortable word to them, encourage them with the love of Christ and the blessed promises of the gospel.

Support the weak, -- Romans 15:1 (KJV) *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

Those of us who are weak lack moral strength for endurance or resistance; lack fortitude and courage; don't have strength of purpose and of will; the weak are not steadfast; they waver. Let us speak a word in season to them to encourage and help them in their distress.

Be patient toward all men. – Be patient towards the unruly, the feebleminded, and the weak as well as to all those in the churches; give place to wrath and leave vengeance to the LORD to whom it belongs. Suffer long, forgive, and forbear with every person in the church and with men.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (KJV) ***See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.***

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; -- Not an ill word for an ill word; Not railing (reproachful or insulting language) for railing; nor an ill action for an ill action; no, not to any man whatever, not to an enemy, a persecutor, a profane person, as well as not to a brother, a believer in Christ. How apt we are to retaliate in these things. It takes us putting to death the deeds of the flesh when these things are thrown toward us! Let us watch for one another in this matter and encourage to control our passions.

but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. – Follow that which is honestly, morally, pleasantly, and profitably good; even every good work which is according to the will of God, is done in faith, from love, and to the glory of God. In particular let us follow acts of benevolence and liberality to the poor; not just once and no more, but always until our race is finished in this world. Not to believers only, but to all men.

Galatians 6:9-10 (KJV) *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (KJV) Rejoice evermore. – In Philippians 3:1, we are told to “Rejoice in the LORD.” The LORD, and not the world, is our basis for rejoicing. Our LORD is our savior; he is our provider; he loves us and has promised us blessings unspeakable. Our hope is not in this world, but our hope is in Him and in His word. In that we rejoice. We also rejoice in tribulations knowing that they work experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed, because the LOVE of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us. Rejoice evermore says: keep on rejoicing and keep on, and on, and on!

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) Pray without ceasing. Don't stop praying! Keep on doing it! When it seems that our prayers go unanswered, keep on praying. Remember, we know not what to pray for as we ought, but the Holy Ghost is praying for us according to the will of God with groanings which cannot be uttered. We pray and He prays for us. Together, we pray for the will of God to be done.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. – Look at the first

word. **IN not FOR**, though giving thanks for all things is good. But let us give thanks **IN ALL** things no matter what is happening to us and about us. In situations that come on us they did upon Job, and let us do as Job did; when things are really bad (death of family members, loss of wealth, sickness of body, false accusations of the brethren) since it might be worse, and is not black despair; even under the temptations of Satan, since they might be greater and heavier, and since the grace of God is sufficient to bear up under them, and deliver out of them, and since there is such a sympathizing high priest and Saviour who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV) *Quench not the Spirit.* -- This language is taken from the way of putting out a fire for that is the meaning of quench; and the sense is, we are not to extinguish the influences of the Holy Spirit in our hearts; There may be an allusion here to fire on an altar, which was to be kept constantly burning. This fire may have been regarded as a picture of our devotion, and as meaning that our devotion was never to become extinct. The Holy Spirit is the source of true devotion, and hence the stirring up of godliness in the heart, by the Spirit, are never to be quenched. Fire may be put out by pouring on water; or by covering it with any incombustible substance; or by neglecting to supply fuel. If it is to be made to burn, it must be nourished with proper care and attention. The Holy Spirit, in his influences on the soul, is here compared with fire that might be made to burn more intensely, or that might be extinguished. Neglect of cultivating the Christian graces; neglect of prayer, neglect of the Bible, neglect of gathering with the saints for worship, prayer, praise, and preaching, neglect of a careful watchfulness over the heart, will do it. Worldliness, vanity, flippancy, ambition, pride, the love of dress, or indulgence in an improper train of thought, will do it.

It is good at this point to consider Ephesians 4:30 which speaks of grieving the Holy Spirit by which we are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30 (KJV) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We can certainly tell of what it is that grieves the Holy Spirit of God by consulting the context of this verse.

Ephesians 4:24-29 (KJV) *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

Not those things only, but let us read the verses which follow verse 30.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:20 (KJV) *Despise not prophesyings.*

– What does this mean? **Despise** not: To abhor, scorn, or disdain. **Prophesyings**: The Act of foretelling or of preaching the word of God. O, brethren, let us never be guilty of scorning or abhorring

the preaching of the Word of God. Listen, the word of God is encouraging to us! And we like that! Right? The word of God condemns things we do that is wrong, doesn't it? Do we like that? Not usually! Remember, beloved, if we neglect the means of grace, we forfeit the Spirit of grace. By *prophesyings* here we are to understand the preaching of the word, the interpreting and applying of the scriptures; and this we must not despise, but should prize and value, because it is the ordinance of God, appointed of him for our furtherance and increase in knowledge and grace, in holiness and comfort. We must not despise preaching, though it be plain, and not with enticing words of men's wisdom, and though we be told no more than what we knew before. It is useful, and many times needful, to have our minds stirred up, our affections and purposes excited, to those things that we knew before to be our interest and our duty.

Romans 12:5-6 (KJV) *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, let us **prophecy** according to the proportion of faith;*

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 (KJV) *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, **but rather that ye may prophecy**. 2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 **But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.***

Let us despise not prophesyings!! God forbid that we do!

Stop here

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (KJV) *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV) *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (KJV) *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

1 Thessalonians 5:25 (KJV) *Brethren, pray for us.*

1 Thessalonians 5:26 (KJV) *Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.*

1 Thessalonians 5:27 (KJV) *I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.*

1 Thessalonians 5:28 (KJV) *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*