

WSBS - - - Thursday, August 12th, 2021

God is faithful!!

All progress in the Christian life is by faith!! (Hebrews 11:6)

Faithfulness is a fruit and a gift!! (Galatians 5: 22-23 - fruit and then in I Corinthians 12: 7-10-a gift)

Faithfulness brings INCREASE!!!

The only way you will lose or be a loser in the Christian life is if you **quit!!!**

Christ has already won the war for us, so as long as you do not quit, you will finish the race and WIN!!! **(Derek Prince)**

But, as for this week's lesson: We need to realize that Paul was warning the Thessalonians that due to their misunderstanding of what he had said when he was present with them (Acts 17: 1-4) and in his first letter to them (I Thessalonians 4: 13-18 and I Thessalonians 5:1-11), there were misunderstanding the timing and reality of Christ's return. **The Thessalonians were falling off the wagon on both sides.** Some were hopeless and in despair, some even to the point of lawlessness, because they thought that Christ had already returned and they had been "left behind." Others were just **idling their time away** believing that since Christ's return was imminent, they might as well not start anything, not work very hard or really apply themselves.

Last week we gleaned 5-6 principles from 5 verses!! (Prayer, prayer and more prayer, rescue, not all believe, God's faithfulness, confidence to continue, patient endurance) This week in these 12 final verses, we read Paul's response to their behaviors. **We will focus on 3 BIG principles:**

- 1. Shun idle believers.**
- 2. Work hard, don't be lulled into idleness yourself.**
- 3. Receive the peace that God wants to provide for you in all circumstances.**

I. **II Thessalonians 3: 6-18** - - - “And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Stay away** from all believers who live **idle lives** and don’t follow the tradition they received from us. 7 For you know that you ought to imitate us. **We were not idle when we were with you.** 8 We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. **We worked hard day and night** so we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We certainly **had the right** to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to **give you an example to follow.** 10 Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “**Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.**” 11 Yet we hear that some of you are **living idle lives**, refusing to work and **meddling in other people’s business.** 12 We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. 13 As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, **never get tired of doing good.**

A. **Idleness does not glorify God Faith prompts and prods** us toward good works (Eph. 2:10 and I Thessalonians 1: 2-3 and II Thessalonians 1: 11), **idolatry** on the other hand dulls us and causes us to slow to idleness. We can say that “Faith works . . .” and that could be interpreted two ways: Faith is effective and accomplishes things, **but also, our faith when genuine** prompt good works, good deeds and hard work. As James teaches us, “ Faith w/o works is dead.”

B. **Troublesome meddlers1 Peter 4:14-16 (NASB)** “If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, **or a troublesome meddler;** 16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”

C. Never grow weary (Galatians 6: 9-10) “9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Insert, segway to reading pages 31-32 in the Anne Orland book

II. **14 “Take note of those who refuse to obey** what we say in this letter. Stay away from them **so they will be ashamed.** **15 Don’t think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister.”**

Compare and contrast this verse to the familiar passage **in Matthew 18: 15-17:**

““If another believer^[d] sins against you,^[e] go privately and point out the offense.

If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. **16**

But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again,

so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. **17** If the

person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t

accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax

collector.”

God is living in us and He has prepared you for “good works that you should walk in

them . . .” “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so

we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10)

III. **16 Now may the Lord of peace himself** give you his **peace at all times** and in every situation. **The Lord be with you all.**

A. **Psalm 119: 165** “Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.”

B. **Ephesians 2: 14a** “**For Christ himself has brought peace to us.**”

C. **Philippians 4: 6-7** - “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

17 HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL. I DO THIS IN ALL MY LETTERS TO PROVE THEY ARE FROM ME.

18 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.