

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. v13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. v14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. v15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. v16 Be joyful always; v17 pray continually; v18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. v19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; v20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. v21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. v22 Avoid every kind of evil. v23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. v24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. v25 Brothers, pray for us. v26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. v27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. v28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

## **HOW TO LIVE WHILE WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS?**

### **I. DIRECTIONS REGARDING CHRISTIAN PEOPLE – v12-15**

#### **1. THOSE WHO ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD – v12-13a** *v12 ... who are over you in the Lord and*

##### **i. RESPECT THE EFFORT NOT THE OUTCOME**

*v12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you,*

A person may labour in the Kingdom of the Lord for many years without seeing results.

**William Carey** didn't see an Indian convert to Christianity for seven years. However, he is known for his perseverance and is considered the "Father of Modern Missions"

For six years, **Adoniram and Ann Judson laboured in Burma**, (Myanmar) without seeing a convert, yet by the time he died 35 years later he had planted 63 congregations which have grown to over 3700 in our day.

##### **ii. RESPECT “THE MESSAGE” NOT THE MESSENGER**

*v12 ... who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.*

A TRUE preacher does not share their thoughts on a passage. A TRUE preacher **EXPOUNDS GOD’S WORD.**

##### **iii. RESPECT THE POSITION NOT THE PERSON**

*v13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.*

A TRUE preacher does NOT CHOOSE the position. GOD CALLS THEM INTO THAT POSITION.

# **DIRECTIONS REGARDING CHRISTIAN PEOPLE**

## **2. THOSE WHO ARE IN THE LORD'S CHURCH – v13b-15**

### **i. WORK FOR UNITY IN THE CHURCH**

*v13b ... Live in peace with each other.*

An organisation that is UNITED is at peace with each other. The word peace literally means "to be in HARMONY".

### **ii. WORK FOR PRODUCTIVITY IN THE CHURCH**

*v14a And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle.*

Don't forget the saying, **THE DEVIL FINDS WORK FOR IDLE HANDS.**

### **iii. WORK FOR MATURITY IN THE CHURCH**

*v14b encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

The work of the church is to produce DISCIPLES.

### **iv. WORK TO BE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS IN THE CHURCH**

*v15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.*

#### **IN THE OT LAW WE READ.**

*Leviticus 24:19-20 If anyone injures his neighbour, whatever he has done must be done to him: v20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, so he is to be injured.*

#### **JESUS TAUGHT:**

*Matthew 5:38-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' v39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. v40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. v41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. v42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

*v43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' v44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, v45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. v46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? v47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? v48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

## **II. DIRECTIONS REGARDING CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

### **v16-21**

#### **1. THERE SHOULD BE PRAISE - v16 - *Be joyful always;***

"Rejoice evermore" literally means, to have a praise in our hearts to God at all times. Praise is NOT something we do on a Sunday Morning, or something we do when we sing songs.

PRAISE IS AN ATTITUDE OF MIND AND HEART IN WHICH GOD FINDS JOY AND WORSHIP!!

#### **2. THERE SHOULD BE PRAYER - v17 - *pray continually;***

This does that we are to walk around all the time taking to Him.

It means that GOD should be at the top of the "FAVOURITE" numbers on our Cell Phone. His Number should be on SPEED DIAL in our hearts at all times.

(The word "continually" refers to a person who has an intermittent cough. They may not be coughing every instant of the day, but there is always that little tingle at the back of his throat. A cough is always a possibility.)

PRAYER IS AN ATTITUDE OF MIND AND HEART IN WHICH THE FIRST BEING WE CALL OUT TO IS GOD!!

#### **3. THERE SHOULD BE APPRECIATION - v18 - *give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

Remember the story when Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman in the house of Simon in Luke 7:36-50. Simon was horrified by the fact that Jesus had been touched by the sinful women. Jesus answered with these words.

*Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. **But he who has been forgiven little loves little.***"

APPRECIATION IS AN ATTITUDE OF MIND AND HEART IN WHICH WE KNOW WE CAN NEVER REPAY GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US!!

#### **4. THERE SHOULD BE PASSION - v19- 21 *v19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; v20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. v21 Test everything. Hold on to the good***

As Christians, we are often guilty of stifling the Holy Spirit! He will move on our hearts to witness, to give, to go to someone, to do something for Him, whatever it may be. Too often, our response is to ignore Him and to say no until we extinguish that little flame in our hearts that He tried to ignite. When the Spirit of God is moving on our souls, our duty is to obey and to do so immediately.

PASSION IS AN ATTITUDE OF MIND AND HEART IN WHICH WE RESPOND TO GOD'S PROMPTING AT ALL TIMES!!

### **III.DIRECTIONS REGARDING CHRISTIAN LIVING**

#### **v22-21**

1. **THERE SHOULD BE PURITY** – **v22** - *Avoid every kind of evil*

The Bible puts the blame for our sin at our own feet. Too many people in our day are blaming others for their sin.

2. **THERE SHOULD BE PERSEVERANCE** – **v23-4** - *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. v24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.*

While the Bible calls each of us to live a holy life,

#### **ONLY GOD CAN PURIFY US SUFFICIENTLY TO ENTER HIS PRESENCE**

The ultimate work of SANCTIFICATION is the WORK OF JESUS ALONE!!

3. **THERE SHOULD BE PRESENCE** – **v28** - *v25 Brothers, pray for us. v26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. v27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. v28 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.***

We cannot survive without the GRACE and MERCY of JESUS.

MAY HIS GRACE BE PRESENT IN OUR LIVES AT ALL TIMES.