



The Lord's Day Worship

March 22, 2020

Opening Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Read or have someone in your home read aloud 1 Chronicles 16:8-10 and then have an open time of prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy. After closing in prayer, you may begin to play the service audio or video from the church website.

Elder Greeting & Pastoral Prayer

Thomas Gardner

Recitation Verse: Isa. 14:27

*For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it?
His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?*

Songs of Praise

Dave & Jolie Herndon, Mark Reed

"The Solid Rock – Cornerstone"

"In Christ Alone"

"Like a River Glorious"

The Teaching of the Word

Daniel Scarbrough

"Living Quietly During Noisy Days"

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Colossians 3:15-17

Discussion Questions

We encourage you to consider the following questions and, if you are with others, to discuss them together

1. In what way has the love of the brethren ministered to you in these recent days?
 2. How is God calling you to show brotherly love to the body of Christ during these days?
 3. How can these days of social distancing be used by God to focus our attention on the commands of verse 11?
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LIVING QUIETLY DURING NOISY DAYS

I Thessalonians 4:9-12

March 22, 2020

Introduction:

LinkedIn

- 16,000 employees; 675 million users; Microsoft acquired them for over \$26 billion back in 2016
- The two ways to utilize LinkedIn – productively or boastfully

Ancient Rome vs. America

- The chief goal of a Roman citizen was to promote the **GLORY** of Rome.
- Much of American culture prioritizes the value and worth of the **INDIVIDUAL**.

Key Thought → Scripture promotes a different perspective. Rather than noise and self-promotion...**QUIET**.

Primary Text:

I. I Thessalonians Overview and Structure

- a. Based on Timothy's report on Thessalonica, Paul understood that the believers there had two primary concerns that he wanted to address
 - Paul's **CHARACTER** was true and his affection for them sincere.
 - Paul wanted to ground them in Christian doctrine particularly that of Christ's **RETURN**. This is the primary focus of the letter.
- b. Warren Wiersbe points out in his *Bible Exposition Commentary* that each chapter in this letter ends with a reference to Christ's return. (1:10; 2:19-20; 3:11-13; 4:13-19; 5:23-24)
- c. The doctrine of the return of Christ was not a theory to be discussed but a truth to be **LIVED**.

II. The exhortation in verses 9-10 centers on how the church should walk in HARMONY.

9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

- a. "brotherly love" is the "*philia*" love of Scripture (*philadelphia*) → deep affection, brotherly love, love of the brethren
 - i. *Romans 12:10* → Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
- b. Brotherly love is rooted in the fact that we have been "taught to love by God himself"
 - i. **The FATHER taught** us to love when he sent his son to die for sinners (I John 4:11-19)
 1. Result → Love becomes perfected in us resulting in...
Confidence (vs 17) Victory over fear (vs 18)
 - ii. **The SON taught** us to love in his new commandment (John 13:34-35)
 1. Jesus had just demonstrated his love for the disciples (washing their feet).
 2. Jesus would demonstrate his love for them on the cross
 3. The world would recognize them as followers of Jesus by their love for one another
 - iii. **The SPIRIT taught** us to love when he poured out the love of God in our hearts (Romans 5:3-5)
 1. The path from suffering to **HOPE**
 2. God's hope is never a disappointment because of his great love

- iv. **God is love.** It is his nature and has been granted to us as well (II Peter 1:4)
 - 1. The church is not to **CHOOSE** love for the brethren. Brotherly love is in the very **NATURE** of the church.
- c. Paul says that they are already loving one another, yet Paul urges them to “excel still more.”
 - i. Paul draws no imaginary lines in the sand. “Love this much and no farther.” NO!

III. The exhortation in verses 11-12 centers on how the church should walk in **HONESTY**.

11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

- a. Three descriptions of Christian behavior:
 - i. Their “ambition” is to drive them toward a “quiet life.”
 - 1. Ambition (philotimeomai) is translated as “to be fond of **HONOR**”
 - 2. Quiet life (hēsychazō) is translated as “peace and tranquility in contrast to agitation.”
Picture a sea quieting down from a storm.
 - a. We have two general options → restlessness and **ANXIETY** or quiet and **REST**.
 - b. *Psalm 46:10 – Be still, and know that I am God.*
 - ii. We choose not to “attend to our own business.”
 - 1. Do not become entangled in the concerns of others which God has sovereignly chosen to **ENTRUST** into their hands, not yours.
 - iii. Be diligent to “work of our own hands.”
 - 1. Work is a **GOOD** thing where Paul condemns idleness (II Thessalonians 3:6-12)
 - 2. Does work matter in light of eternity and the soon return of Christ?
For me? Yes! (Colossians 3:23) ----- For unbelievers? Yes! (II Thessalonians 4:11-12)
- b. What is the intended **GOAL** of Paul’s teaching in verses 9-11?
 - i. “So that you will behave properly toward outsiders”
 - 1. Proper (euschēmōnōs) is translated as honestly or decently (I Corinthians 14:40)
 - a. This is behavior that has no false motive or **UNDERHANDED** dealings.
 - ii. “Outsiders” are those who are outside the faith. → “Walk carefully!” (Colossians 4:5)
 - iii. The last phrase of verse 12, “and be dependent on no one” calls to attention the goal of providing for yourself and your family and being in a position to give to those in need.
 - 1. This is not a rebuke against the poor, but an extension of the godly example of verse 11

Conclusion:

- 1. The body of Christ should be characterized by a deep, abiding **LOVE** for one another.
- 2. The manner in which we work, motivated by love, should **APPEAL** to an unbeliever, that he or she would be drawn to Christ.
- 3. These are the means by which God builds up the church and testifies to the ungodly, **ESPECIALLY** right now.

When love takes a high profile among God’s people, they assume a low, humble profile before one another and others. Christians loving one another is the launching pad for motivating them to want to live an honorable life attractive to unbelievers. – G.K. Beale