

1 Thessalonians

Week 9: Closing Instructions, Prayer and Benediction

November 15, 2023

The apostle now closes his first letter to the believers in Thessalonica with some closing instructions, a prayer and a benediction. Yes, the church is to expectantly look for the Lord Jesus, but while we wait we are to live in manner that pleases Him. The blessed life in the here and now is dependent upon our submission to the Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to him personally and as a church body.

1. **Closing Instructions on Christian Living.** Vs. 12-21,25-27

A. *The churches treatment of those who serve, care for and admonish the church.* Vs. 12,13

The church is to hold in high regard those who work hard among them. This is not just speaking of pastors or paid staff. It is also anyone who in a sacrificial way serves the body at large. In whatever role they have. There is a sizable number of people who commit every week to hours spent in ministry. What are some things done at the church or in the church body that make this congregation functional?

We should be thankful and praise God for those who serve the church body.

Why would Paul in this context the note the importance of living in peace?

B. *The actions needed to keep the church running smoothly.* Vs 14,15

Warn the idle and disruptive. _____

Encourage the disheartened. _____

Help the weak. _____ Be patient with everyone. _____

Make sure good is being done to all. _____

C. *Spiritual commitments needed by the congregation to keep the church strong.* Vs. 16-22,25-27

Rejoice always. _____ pray continually _____

Give thanks. _____

Do not quench the Spirit. _____

Hold in high regard God’s Word. _____

Hold on to good and reject evil. _____ Pray for missionaries. _____

Make Fraternal Love Manifest. _____

Share the Word with others _____

2. **Paul’s prayer for the church.** Vs. 23,24

God’s would make them holy throughout their lives. _____

Blameless in mind, body and spirit. _____

3. **Benediction.** Vs 28

The grace of Jesus be with them. Good-will, kindness, unmerited favor, warmth toward all, not easily of-fended, forgiveness and mercy. _____