

Paul's Concluding Matters

1 Thess. 5:24-28

Lesson 5d-Part 2

1 Thess. 5:24 Faithful [dependable, trustworthy] is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

- NIV has "and he will do it" – Lit "who indeed will do [it]"
- God keeps His promises.
- Satan and all his evil forces cannot keep God from keeping His promises.
- Believers can count on the faithfulness of God.

1. God, who calls men through the gospel, is absolutely faithful to save those trusting in His Son and He will punish those who reject His Son. (2 Thess. 1:8, 9).

2 Thess 1:8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

2 Thess 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

- a. One must obey the gospel to be saved.
- b. It is "the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16).

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- c. Those rejecting the gospel will be eternally separated from God in hell.
- d. This should put great fear in those rejecting the gospel. (Heb. 10:28-31).

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on {the testimony of} two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

Heb 10:31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God

2. God will not fail us. (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 13:5; Jas. 4:7).

1 Chr 10:13 So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry {of it,}

Heb 13:5 {Make sure that} your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He

Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

3. One will be blameless when Christ comes again if he/she will by new birth become a part of God's family and seek His will.

1 Thess. 5:25 Brethren, pray for us

1. Prayer is powerful because it is directed to the Almighty God.
2. Paul coveted the prayers of these saints and all brothers and sisters.
 - a. He knew prayer had great power.
 - b. He had complete and unwavering trust in the faithful and omnipotent God of heaven.
 - c. God will not forsake His children. (Heb. 13:5, 6).

Heb 13:5 {Make sure that} your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Heb 13:6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

3. We all need the prayers of others and we all need to pray for others.
4. God hears our prayers and will answer them according to His will. (1 Jn. 5:14).

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 Thess. 5:26 Greet all the brethren with a holy [sacred] kiss.

1. The "holy kiss" is mentioned several times in the New Testament.
 - a. "Holy" is from "hagios" [**hah** gee ahs] meaning "holy, sacred."
 - b. It is used several times in the New Testament in reference to the word "kiss." (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Pet. 5:14).

Rom. 16:16 Greet one another with **a holy kiss**. All the churches of Christ greet you.

1 Cor. 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with **a holy kiss**.

2 Cor. 13:12 Greet one another with **a holy kiss**.

1 Pet. 5:14 Greet one another with **a kiss of love**. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

2. Greeting others with a kiss was customary in those days.
 - a. It was not a custom originating with Christians.

- b. Greeting one another with a kiss has been practiced in ancient times and is still practiced in some countries and by various people today especially among close relatives and good friends.
3. Paul appears to be asking them to “greet all the brethren with a holy kiss” on his behalf as he was unable to do that personally.
 - a. “All” is significant.
 - b. There was to be no distinctions or respecters of persons.
 - c. This church likely had rich and poor, educated and uneducated, male and female, slaves and free.
 - d. “All” were to be loved and treated with respect.
 4. “Holy kiss” designates it was a kiss expressing Christian love - not a kiss of passion or betrayal like the kiss of Judas. (Matt. 26:48, 49).

Matt 26:48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him."
Matt 26:49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

- a. We can see from this example that greeting with “a kiss” was not a strange custom even among males.
 - b. Judas’ kiss was sinful because it was not a genuine kiss, but was a kiss of betrayal!
5. Greeting one another with a kiss is still practiced in some countries apart from any association with Christianity.
 - a. It was and is, in these places, a way of greeting.
 - b. It may or may not denote love and affection for the person or persons.
 - c. In some instances it is just another way of greeting friends, strangers, etc.
 - d. It can become a mere custom.
 6. In those countries Christians may also follow this custom with greeting one another especially when they meet together and when they encounter one another at other times.
 7. It is certainly not wrong to greet one another with a holy kiss, but this will likely not be welcomed by most outside the brotherhood and by most people one does not know very well who are believers.
 8. The firm hand shake or a hug are other warm ways of greeting one another and showing love and affection.
 9. It is questionable Paul was making this a universal commandment applying in every situation in all ages.
 - a. To universally practice the holy kiss in the church today must be done with great caution.
 - b. In some or many instances it would not be welcomed and would anger and even alienate some Christians.
 - c. In our culture in some or many instances a firm hand shake or perhaps a hug would likely be much better received.
 - d. It is vital that we do not let culture make us cold with another and afraid to show our love and affection for one

another.

10. It is certain Paul was insisting they show genuine affection for one another.

a. Peter penned these words to Christians. (1 Pet. 1:22).

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls **for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,**

b. Christians are to have a genuine, sincere love for one another - not a fake or cold love.

c. Christians are the family of God who are to love one another even as Christ loved us. (Jn. 13:34-35).

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

d. This great love is to come "from the heart" and reveals to others that we are His disciples.

e. The "holy kiss" was to be practiced between Jewish and Gentile believers, males and females, rich and poor, etc.

Note:

1. The kiss of Judas rather than being "a holy kiss" was a kiss of betrayal and treachery. (Mk. 14:44).

Mark 14:44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard."

2. The critics and enemies of Christ failed to give Him a kiss of greeting. (Lk. 7:44, 45).

Luke 7:44 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

Luke 7:45 "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.

3. Jesus praised the sinful woman for her conduct of kissing His feet over and over again. (Lk.7:45).

1 Thess. 5:27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren [brothers and sisters].

1. Paul again used the word "all." See 1 Thess. 5:26.

2. This was not a private letter, but Paul wanted it "read to all the brethren."

3. It was very important that every member hear the words of this letter from Paul.

a. He used the words "I adjure you."

b. This comes from the word "enorkizo" [eh nahr **kee** zoh] meaning "to adjure, charge, to put under oath."

c. The NIV has "charge" and the NRSV has "I solemnly command."

d. McCord "I am putting you under oath before the Lord."

- e. The word “adjure” was a form of putting one under oath.
4. It was his strong desire that “all” hear his words of praise, encouragement and instruction.
 5. One should keep in mind that each member did not have a copy of the scriptures and none would have a copy of this letter.
 - a. Many books of the New Testament had not been written at this early date.
 - b. There were very limited copies of the books or letters of the New Testament in about A.D. 50 to 52.
 - c. Copies of this epistle would emerge and be circulated over a period of time.
 - d. Many Christians could not read based on the number of illiterate people at that time.

1 Thess. 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

1. Paul concludes by expressing a desire that “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” be with each one of them.
 - a. Paul often used this language. (Rom. 16:20; 1 Cor. 16:23; 2 Cor. 13:13; Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; 2 Thess. 3:18; Phile. 1:25).
 - b. Many scriptures speak of God’s grace. (Tit. 2:11; Heb. 2:9; 1 Pet. 5:12; Acts 11:23; 2 Cor. 1:2; 6:1; Eph. 2:8).

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Heb 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, {namely,} Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, **so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.**

1 Pet 5:12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard {him}), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

Acts 11:23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and {began} to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain {true} to the Lord;

2 Cor 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 6:1 And working together {with Him,} we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain--

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;

2. He dearly loved these brothers and sisters and wanted the unmerited favor of Jesus to be with all of them.

Conclusion.

1. We need to read and study this great epistle.
2. There is so much we can learn from it.

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