

9/6/20

Recap of last week's message (8/30/20 – Joe Ricchuiti - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28):

1. Paul ends the Book of Thessalonians with 16 imperatives in 17 verses, 5:12-28, covering church life, personal responsibility, and ministry. In the final verses of the book, vv. 23-28, Paul seems to be answering the questions: how can I live up to such a demanding standard? How can I do this? So Paul prays for them, that God would enable them; that God would crown their efforts with success. It takes divine provision to follow diving imperatives.

-According to Robert L. Thomas: "I have simply told you all these things to do, 'Paul is saying,' but God alone has power to make your efforts a success."

2. Paul begins by calling upon the "God of peace" to sanctify them (make them holy). Peace and holiness go together:

-peace eludes us when sin in our lives goes unconfessed (to God, 1 John 1:9).

-peace eludes us when we forget that God is in control of our lives.

-God can give peace within and peace without (with others).

3. Paul prays that God would sanctify them, or as in some translations, make them holy. The word translated sanctify or make holy means "to be different," "to be set apart, from sin and to God."

Wiersbe writes that to be holy, sanctified is to be, "set apart for God's exclusive use."

4. The concept of sanctification is seen in three tenses in Scripture:

-Past tense (our position-delivered from the penalty of sin), we have been made holy, we are holy, i.e. set apart to God. When we become believers, God permanently sets us apart to Himself; He cleanse us from the defilement of sin and dedicates us to His service. (Hebrews 10:10)

-Present tense (practical-delivered from the power of sin). We are being made holy. It's a lifelong process. We are being cleansed from sin daily. We are more and more yielded to God's work in our lives and to God's service. Present sanctification is our work in partnership with God's work. In Philippians 2:12,13, Paul tells us to work out our own salvation (work out-not work for) for it is God who works in us to do of His good pleasure. (2 Corinthians 7:1; Romans 12:1; 6;13; 1 Peter 1:15)

-Future tense (Ultimate or Perfect Sanctification-delivered from the presence of sin). This occurs when we are in Christ's presence, we shall be like Him. (1 John 3:2)

5. Once again Paul is buoyed up by the hope of the Second Coming.

-"If you love His appearing you are not in love with this present world....Paul had his sights higher than the passing scene. I wonder how many really love Jesus' return. One does not sense it much in churches building the kingdom but not really joying in the coming of the King. Are you in love with the age or with the one to come? It makes a difference." (Vance Havner)