

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY
MEN OF THE WORD
MEN'S MINISTRY
2021-2022

1 Thessalonians - "The Coming of the Lord"

Session 15

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NKJV)

"God's work through our relationships"

Paul now gives the church some exhortations on how "sons of light" should conduct themselves in their relationships in the light of the fact that the Lord could return at anytime. The relationship he speaks of in this week's passage is between the "brethren" and those who are "over you in the Lord;" and he gives some very specific criteria. As you study this passage, observe carefully the wording Paul uses to describe the character and the calling of the person who you are to "recognize" and "esteem;" and consider how God might use that as part of His work in and through you. Consider also how the way we conduct ourselves in this relationship might reflect on the Lord we all serve, and whose return we eagerly await.

Personal Study Time Questions:

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12

What should we "recognize" about those who are "over us in the Lord," according to verse 12, that would cause us to esteem them (note that it isn't those who lord it over us)? How would this character trait make it easier to sometimes receive admonishment from them?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:13

Note that nothing in these verses tells us to do anything simply because of a title. How are we to "esteem them very highly", and for what reason?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:13; Ephesians 4:11-16

Does the phrase "for their work's sake" give you a clue as to whom we are really esteeming when we recognize those who labor among us, and are over us spiritually? What is that work according to Ephesians 4?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:18

What can these men who are over us in the Lord do for the body when they labor among us as unto to the Lord (in the right way for the right reason)?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:13

Our relationship with those over us in the Lord is simply a part of the whole image of the church we should be presenting to the world around us for Christ's sake. What should we want the world to see in the way we act among ourselves?

Group Discussion:

This week's passage speaks both to the "brethren" AND to those over us, as "Be at peace among yourselves" would indicate in verse 13. It's important that they "labor among" us and not lord it over us; and that we esteem them in love for the sacrifices they make in order to help us in our walk and to equip us for serving the Lord. Read through Ephesians 4:11-16, and meditate on it carefully. How does it clarify how your relationship with your pastors should operate, and to what end? What needs to change in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions toward your pastors as part of Christ completing His work in you that you might better serve and glorify Him?

Hiding God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):

"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13