

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

1 Thessalonians - "The Coming of the Lord"

Session 17

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 (NKJV)

"God's sanctifying work"

As Paul concludes his Letter, he does so with a prayer; a benediction of sorts. But it is also a promise. God will complete His sanctifying work in the areas Paul has been writing about in this Letter, if we keep our eyes set on Him and follow Him (obey) in all the things He speaks to us. Though we may often fail in that, "He who calls you is faithful" to complete it! He won't give up on us! Take time this week to review all God has revealed in chapter 4:1 through 5:22 of what our lives should look like and be about. Consider what things there are not yet a part of your walk in the Lord, and make it your prayerful, determined purpose to do as Philippians says; to "work out" in fear and trembling what God "works in." God Himself will do that sanctifying work, but He won't force it on us. Are you willing to let Him change you? As you begin this lesson, pray that the Holy Spirit would do a new work in your life in Christ; that all the wonderful things in this Letter would be a part of it.

Personal Study Time Questions:

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:23a

What does this part of v.23 promise the "God of peace Himself" will do? If He Himself will do it, what does that insinuate as to who WON'T do it?

Scripture: Philippians 1:6

What does this verse promise about things God "begins"?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:23b

“God of peace” is significant in v.23 when we consider the battles involved in God’s sanctifying work. It promises that God is for us (read Romans 8:31 also). And so, we can be at peace in our ups and downs in the sanctification process. What does Paul promise in the second half of v.23 to those who are in God’s sanctifying ‘workshop’?

Scripture: Colossians 1:21-23

What does this passage call us to do, who are promised to be presented “holy, and blameless, and above reproach” in His sight?

Scripture: John 17:17

What does God primarily use in His sanctifying work in our lives?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

What comfort do we derive from this verse when we consider all the times we have been unfaithful to God and His Word? And what about when we sometimes feel that we are never going to change?

Group Discussion:

Paul calls the church in Thessalonica to read this epistle to all believers, because the truths, and promises, and commands contained within are for us all! But we must do what is necessary to appropriate it all for our lives. Talk in your groups about those things contained in 4:1 thru 5:22 that particularly stand out to you as things that you need in your life as part of God completing His sanctifying work in you. It's God's work, but talk about what we can do as part of Him working in us. Pray for one another for those areas you desire to see the Holy Spirit do a new work in you.

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

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:23