

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

First RPC Durham

I. The Christian's love for the work of the Spirit (v 19)**A.** Exposition of the Text (Heb 12:29; Lk 3:16; Pr 17:3)**B.** Doctrines from the Text

- 1) The Holy Spirit is active in the life of the Christian (Eph 1:13b-14; Col 1:11).
- 2) The Christian's responsibility: pursue sanctification (2 Cor 7:1)
- 3) We are to resist the Devil, not the Spirit (Jms 4:7; Eph 4:30)

C. Warning against hinderances and snares

- 1) Actively sinning against God (Mt 13:15)
- 2) Neglecting of the means of grace
- 3) Refusal to submit to the work of the Holy Spirit (Prov 4:1)

D. Motivations for encouragement:

- 1) The Spirit of God is given to us by God and is a great honour.
- 2) The Spirit of God is given to us by God and is a great blessing (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- 3) If we quench the Spirit, we will not be ready to quench the fiery darts of the devil (Eph 6:16)
- 4) If we quench the Spirit, we will not be ready to be before the Lord (Mt 25:1-13)
- 5) Christ does not quench us (Isa 42:3)

E. Uses from the Text

- 1) Do not delay in confessing sin (1 Jn 1:9).
- 2) Do not delay in obedience (2 Chr 24:5)
- 3) Do not neglect the means of grace.
- 4) Do not neglect the fellowship of the saints (1 Cor 12:14).
- 5) Self-Examination
- 6) Stir up love and affection for God (Song of Songs 8:7a)
- 7) Cultivate further the graces which you already have.

II. The Christian's love for the preaching of God's Word (v 20-21)**A.** Exposition of the Text (1 Jn 4:1)**B.** Doctrines from the Text

- 1) The character of biblical preaching
- 2) The authority of preaching is derived only from faithfulness to God's Word (1 Thes 2:13)

3) Our responsibility: test all things by the Scriptures (Isa 8:20)

4) Ministers and their sermons can and have erred

C. Warning against hinderances and snares:

- 1) Unwarranted expectation of particular feeling or experience during preaching.
- 2) Undue attention to and affection for the minister over attention to and affection for God and His Word (1 Cor 2:2-5)
- 3) Focus and criticism of form or style at the detriment of inattentiveness to content.
- 4) Pride leads to the despising of preaching (Phil 3:1)
- 5) Doubting ordained means of grace (Psa 119:97, 99-100, 104).
- 6) Lack of physical preparation
- 7) Lack of spiritual preparation

D. Motivations for encouragement (Psa 19:7-8)**E.** Uses from the Text

- 1) Love faithful preaching and sermons (Acts 2:42; Pr 2:1-6)
- 2) Grow in listening well to sermons (Zech 4:10; Acts 20:7-12)
- 3) Apply what you hear in faithful preaching of God's Word

III. The Christian's application of God's Word (v 22)**A.** Exposition of the Text**B.** Doctrines from the Text (Psa 5:4; Rom 12:9b; Amos 5:15a; 1 Tim 3:2)**C.** Warning against hinderances and snares:

- 1) Licentiousness.
- 2) Self-Centeredness (Phil 2:4)

D. Motivations for encouragement

- 1) Avoiding all appearance of sin allows us to avoid actual sin.
- 2) Christians will indeed suffer, so let us suffer for the sake of righteousness (1 Pt 2:15, 20)
- 3) Consider the perfect example of our Saviour (1 Pt 2:21-22)

E. Uses from the Text

- 1) Be ready and willing to receive correction with humility.
- 2) Cut off all actual sin, not just the appearance of sin.
- 3) Put on holiness.
- 4) Develop a sensitive conscience to sin.
- 5) Be encouraged, dear Christian, that in heaven, we shall be free not only from all appearance of sin, but all presence of sin.