

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church  
Wednesday Sermon**

**Date: June 17, 2020**

**Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:21-28**

**Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:21-28**

**Subject: Various admonishments to the saints**

Last time, we considered verses 12 through 20 of this chapter. What a blessing to contemplate scriptural warnings to us as the children of light that the day of the LORD should not come upon us as a thief in the night – as it shall on the whole unbelieving world. Brethren, we can and should know what is going on all the time so we can be aware of that day. We learned that scripture tells us to not despise the preaching of the word – that is, prophesying. With that in mind for this evening, brothers and sisters, suffer a few words of exhortation as we finish the chapter and the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21 (KJV) *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.***

***Prove all things;*** -- The Greek word which is translated as prove is: δοκιμαζω dokimazo *dok-im-ad'-zo*. It is found 23 times in the New Testament and is variously translated as: prove 10, try 4, approve 3, discern 2, allow 2, like 1, and examine 1. What things are there that we are bidden to prove? ALL THINGS! Recently, an article about this verse came to my attention written by Arthur W. Pink. I want to read the first two paragraphs of his article.

**SEDUCERS**

**A.W. Pink**

**“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.” 1 John 2:26**

### **WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT**

**It is likely that quite a number of our readers will consider that there is little or no occasion for us to devote a chapter to our present subject, or, at any rate, that they feel in no need of anything thereon. If so, they are lamentably ignorant of their own hearts. Anyone who imagines himself to be so well taught and established in the truth as to be immune from being imposed upon by error is in a dangerous state of mind, for he is possessed by a spirit of pride and self-sufficiency, and therefore very liable to fall a victim to the wiles of the devil. It is written, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). There is nothing that God hates more than pride; and where it be allowed, He humbles. Pride is “the condemnation of the devil” (1Tim. 3:6), being that which brought about his ruin. It was the insensate pride of our first parents—the desire to be as God—that plunged the whole race to destruction. Pride or self-confidence was the cause of Peter’s sad fall. Those who think highly of themselves affront God and will be brought low. “Be not high minded, but fear” (Rom. 11:20), dear reader. “When Majesty humbled Himself, shall the worm swell with pride?” (Bernard).**

**The Christian is exhorted to “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1Thess. 5:21)—to examine carefully and critically everything which he hears or reads, testing it by the Word of God. There is pressing need for him to do so, for there is much error, cleverly disguised, abroad today. As another has pointed out, “We may know a straight line, and**

**be assured that there is in it no curve, or twist, or angle; and yet much that appears straight will be found to be irregular, bent, and twisted, when tested by a measuring rod. In like manner we may know the truth, and yet much that appears to be true will be found false when tested by the truth Himself. The only perfect line of rectitude is Christ. All who are opposed to Him, in thought, word, or deed, are liars; even as all watches are false that contradict the sun." The Christ of many a pulpit is radically different from the Christ of God, yet because the preacher invests the figment of his own imagination with the name of "Christ," many unlearned and unstable souls are deceived into supposing that it is the Christ of Scripture that is being set before them. It was so in John's day, and that is why he devoted this section of his epistle to an exposure of the same and warning the saints against them."**

Brothers and sisters, this is true of spiritual things and of scripture, but it is also true about the things we face in life every day. Let us test, try, discern, and examine everything, then – ***hold fast that which is good.*** – It is certain that many things are good, but many more things can never be called good. That which doesn't pass our test ought to be avoided. Let me ask you this. I am speaking to every one of us – both you and I. We dare not be partakers of those things which are evil and not good. Why not this very evening, take inventory of what we do, where we go, what we say, what we wear, the company we keep – in a word, everything – and prove them all. Keep the good and purposely this day throw away and avoid all that which is not good! We shall be the better for it. But, you might say, "some things are not all that bad, are they?" That brings us to the next verse:

**1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) *Abstain from all appearance of evil.***

Ah, brothers and sisters, we ought always to avoid that which is evil, but also to abstain (this verb is in the Greek middle voice which means that it is something we do ourselves). Abstain means to “hold oneself off or refrain from partaking.” From what? All appearance of evil. If we are going to avoid the very appearance of evil, then it must come from within us. Think of it – the LORD has given us the Holy Spirit whereby we can put to death the deeds of the body. If something we want to do, say, or partake of has the appearance (the shape, fashion, sight, or form) of evil, flee from it! Don’t touch it! Never go near it! Think of the wise man’s instructions of the man tempted by the harlot or adulteress:

**Proverbs 2:16-18 (KJV)** *To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; 17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. 18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.*

**Proverbs 5:8 (KJV)** *Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:*

**Proverbs 7:27 (KJV)** *Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*

Remember, the path of the just shines more and more unto the perfect day. It is a narrow path upon which we walk. Our path stands in stark contrast to the wide road of unbelieving world all of whom are walking on a very broad way which leads to destruction. Listen to me and to the word:

- There are places we can go which give the appearance of evil;

- there are things we can wear that give the appearance of evil;
- there are things we can do which give the appearance of evil;
- there are people with whom we can company which give the appearance of evil. Avoid all of these – don't go near them.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV) *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;*** -- That is, the God of peace himself. He is our peace. He is the author of peace – both peace in this present world and in the world to come. Peace is part of the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit, therefore God produces this in you and I in the person of the Holy Spirit who lives in our body – for we are the temple of the Holy Ghost who dwells in us and shall be with us forever. The word sanctify comes from the Greek word *αγιαζω* *hagiazō* *hag-ee-ad'-zo* which means to be holy – and to be separated from the world and separated unto God. But, notice that the clause says “sanctify you wholly;” The word wholly is translated from the Greek word: *ολοτελης* *holoteles* *hol-ot-el-ace'*. That word is a combination of two words. The first word is *holos* and means: all 65, whole 43, every whit 2, altogether 1, and throughout + **1223** 1. The second word is *telos* which means: end 35, custom 3, uttermost 1, finally 1, ending 1, and by (one's) continual + **1519**. Thus the God of peace shall sanctify us every whit, altogether, and throughout finally and in the end. Brother John Gill seems to have thought wholly means all or everyone. It does mean that, but more than that, it means that each one will come to this state.

***and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus***

**Christ.** – Paul’s prayer is that our whole being be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord. Some believe man is a two-part creature – the inner person which is invisible and the outer person which is visible and mortal. I believe man is a tripartite creature. He has three parts and they are named here. Spirit, soul, and body. Do we have other scriptural witnesses? Yes, I believe we do.

**Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of **soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

This verse does not mention the body, but the joints and marrow indicate a body. If the soul and spirit can be divided asunder, then there is one of each in the person.

Job believed he had a soul and spirit.

**Job 7:11 (KJV)** *Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my **spirit**; I will complain in the bitterness of my **soul**.*

Samuel’s mother, Hannah thought she had a soul and spirit.

**1 Samuel 1:15 (KJV)** *And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful **spirit**: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my **soul** before the LORD.*

Anything that will defile our spirit, our soul, or our body will hinder our sanctification wholly (completely).

**1 Thessalonians 5:24 (KJV)** *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

***Faithful is he that calleth you,*** -- God has called us into the fellowship of his Son, and to his kingdom and glory, and who continues to do so, not only externally by his word, but internally by his Spirit and grace.

***Who also will do it.*** -- Two things the apostle mentions as the ground of confidence that this petition would be heard and answered; that is, that God would wholly sanctify his people in the churches, and preserve them blameless to the coming of Christ. What are those two things? Those two things are the faithfulness of God, and the effectual calling of his saints. God is faithful to his word, his covenant and promises. God has promised to sanctify and cleanse his people from all their sins, and to preserve them safe to his kingdom and glory. Let us notice this wonderful promise for us from Philippians 1.

**Philippians 1:6 (KJV)** *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

**1 Thessalonians 5:25 (KJV)** ***Brethren, pray for us.*** -- We should pray for one another; and brethren should thus express brotherly love. Paul did not think it beneath him to call the Thessalonians brethren, nor to request their prayers. Preachers stand in need of their people's prayers; and the more people pray for their preachers the more good ministers may have from God, and the more benefit people may receive by their ministry.

**1 Thessalonians 5:26 (KJV)** ***Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.***

Brothers and sisters, a holy kiss is scriptural. Doubtless this was a custom in the churches of the LORD Jesus Christ in New Testament times. This is a kiss of charity (love to the saints).

**1 Peter 5:14 (KJV)** *Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

Think about this! This shows love and appreciation to the saints. It is not a kiss of treachery as Judas gave to Jesus; nor is it a lewd and lascivious kiss as the harlot gave to the simple young man who was void of understanding in Proverbs 7.

**1 Thessalonians 5:27 (KJV)** *I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.*

I like this – because we are still reading Paul’s words to all the holy brethren. Doubtless the Thessalonians carried it out upon receiving Paul’s letter.

**1 Thessalonians 5:28 (KJV)** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Great salutation! This is Paul’s usual salutation in all his letters to the churches. What better thing can we have with us than the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. How we need more grace, and grace for grace in these dark days!

**James 4:5-7 (KJV)** *Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? **6 But he giveth more grace.** Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. **7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

Thank you for your attention. May God bless His word to our hearts!