

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
EXHORTATIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS
1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

Introduction

In *2 Timothy 4:1-5* Paul gave a charge to Timothy, the man of God! Most of us are familiar with that charge! It is a charge that is delivered to most every man that is called of God and ordained into the ministry!

At the same time that a man of God is ordained into the ministry and receives his charge from the ordaining council, there is also a corresponding charge to the Church that has recognized the gifts of the man of God being ordained and who will be benefitting from those gifts!

Now understand that a charge is nothing more than an exhortation of responsibility—A challenge if you will to be faithful to God’s purposes!

A man of God has a responsibility to the LORD and to those he is called to minister to! But, a Church also has a responsibility to the LORD and to those whom the LORD places over them in the ministry!

In our text tonight we see Paul giving a charge to this Church he is writing to with regard to those who were their spiritual leaders.

I. HE DESCRIBES THESE LEADERS TO THE BRETHREN!

A. He Describes Their Effort!—Them Which Labor Among You In The LORD!

1. It Is A Labor By The Grace Of God!

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Colossians 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

2. It Is To Be A Labor Together!

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ...

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
EXHORTATIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS
1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

He Describes Their Effort!—Them Which Labor Among You!

B. He Describes Their Authority!—Them Which Are Over You In The Lord!

We need to remember that God establishes authority in the Church just as well as the authority in the home and the authority in government!

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, **over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers**, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Ephesians 4:11-15

C. He Describes Their Purpose!—Them Which Admonish You!

“admonish” = “to put in mind, that is, to caution or reprove gently”

Philippians 3:1 ...To write **the same things** to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.”

1 Corinthians 4:14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I **warn** you.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to **warn** every one night and day with tears.

1 Peter 5:2 **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

HE DESCRIBES THE LEADERS TO THE BRETHREN...

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
EXHORTATIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS
1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

II. HE EXHORTS THE BRETHREN REGARDING THESE LEADERS!

A. Know Them. (vs 12)

1. Understand where they're coming from!

- a. What a minister does is more than just a job!
- b. This is a ministry and a holy calling from God!
- c. The ministry is serious business for you and those you love!

2. Understand their teaching!

- a. This is not about personal preferences!
- b. This is not about personal reasoning!
- c. This is about what "Thus saith the LORD!"

3. Recognize them as your pastor/teacher and follow them!

a. Know Their Faith!

*Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: **whose faith follow**, considering the end of their conversation.*

My faith is not in myself or my abilities!
My faith is not in the things of this world!
My faith is in God!

b. Know Their Care!

*Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls**, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
EXHORTATIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS
1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

B. Esteem Them Very Highly In Love For Their Works Sake. (Vs 13)

"esteem" = "consider"

"very highly" = "above and beyond high"

in "love" = "agape" i.e. Sacrificial love that looks out for the welfare of another!

"for their works sake" = i.e. for their care of you!

*1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, **especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.***

C. Be At Peace Among Yourselves. (Vs 13)

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

*Mark 9:50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? **Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.***

*2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, **live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.***

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

2 Thessalonians 3:16—"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
EXHORTATIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS
1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

James 3:13-18

Conclusion

Paul delivered this charge to this Church at Thessalonica, but it applies to every Church including this one!

Receiving the charge is one thing! Keeping the charge is quite another!
We have to be diligent!

I have to be diligent to the charge delivered to me as a man of God!
You each have to be diligent to the charge delivered to you as a Church of the living God!

What will you do with it? We can do it God's way and benefit! Or we can do things our own way and make a mess of things!