

1 Thessalonians 5.16-28

Section refers to Worship - all the verbs are plural

Public duties like hearing Word read, greeting one another - SHARING

CHURCHES NEED to GIVE MORE TIME TO WORSHIP
PREPARATION

balance between form and freedom

WORSHIP IS MOST IMPORTANT PART OF OUR SERVICE TO GOD
service must flow out of worship or it is without power, love, and purpose

WORDS THAT SHOULD CHARACTERIZE OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

JOY - not every service should be a funeral service / Pastor is Undertaker

v. 16 “be joyful” - strange words to come from Paul’s lips
- man who had suffered so much for his gospel ministry
- suffering produces joy / rejoiced in his troubles - Phil 4.4

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH

COMMAND - is NOT make yourself Joyful / Rejoice in Lord - Seek His
Joy

INVITATION TO ENTER INTO THE JOYFUL WORSHIP OF GOD
let our worship be loud and exciting - trumpets, drums, singing

PRAYER - is another fundamental part of Worship

v. 17 - Not the moving of our lips - BUT LIFTING OUR HEARTS TO
GOD

Constant awareness God’s presence, power, plan - BE EVER LISTENING

AS BIG AS THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD - global needs

AS SMALL AS THE IMMANENCE OF GOD - personal needs

THANKFULNESS - “the Eucharist” / giving of thanks

v. 18 Conviction that God is Sovereign / Loving plan for God of His people

“God’s will” - refers to all 3 statements / God’s will revealed in Christ Jesus

give thanks IN all situations / NOT FOR all situations

NOT A SOLEMN STOICISM OR ISLAMIC FATALISM / Heavenly Father

BE SPIRIT FILLED - LED AND GUIDED BY HIM TO HIM

v. 19 // Eph 4.30 - do not grieve the Holy Spirit

took Spirit out of Book of Acts- church close / Today it would keep on going

BE TAUGHT BY THE WORD OF GOD

v. 20 Particular expression of the Spirit - Revelation Gifts

Prophet - Important office of the NT church / Before closing of CANON

TODAY THERE ARE NO MORE PROPHETS / CANON CLOSED
but someone may have prophetic insights from Scripture to individuals

Today we preach MEDIATELY - Prophets then spoke IMMEDIATELY
we speak based on the Bible as the Mediator of our thoughts from His Word

v. 21 - Prophecy must be proven / Tested like metal

How to test?

1) Measure what is said by the Scriptures // Bereans - Acts 17.11

- 2) Do they have the right Christology? - 1 John 4.1-3 - God and man
- 3) Is there a true Gospel preached - grace not works / Gal 1.6-10
- 4) Character of Speaker - wolf in sheep's clothing? / by their fruit you know
- 5) Does it edify / build up the church in truth and love / God's purpose

NOTICE v. 27 - Paul does not expect them to test his word from God

BALANCE - hear the Word - RESPOND with joy, thankfulness, & prayer

There is one form of good / v. 22 but many forms of evil / BALANCE

ONE GOAL OF WORSHIP IS THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

v. 23 - God of peace / He alone can give total SHALOM - God & man

Balance - We must avoid evil v. 22 / v. 23 God will make us holy
Cannot just expect God to do it - We are given Spirit to be wise - flee tempt.

May every part of you be made holy / every part of your WHOLE being
word is singular - verb and adjective

Jewish concept - Body and Spirit/Soul - God breathed into the dust of man
Death is separation of body and soul

NOT argument for Tripartite man / Mk 12.30 - 4 parts / 1 Cor 7.34 - 2 parts
PAUL MEANS EVERY PART OF YOUR BEING SHOULD BE HOLY

v. 24 Prayer is offered in the certainty that it will be answered

v. 25 Paul a real man who needs the prayers of his brothers

THEY NEED THE SANCTIFYING OF THE SPIRIT & SO DOES HE!

v. 26 Cultural Expression of warm Christian love / for ALL - sisters?

AT THE END OF WORSHIP WE MUST GREET ONE ANOTHER

SOME PEOPLE LEAVE CHURCH LIKE RATS FROM SINKING SHIP

Ex. - Japanese not wanting to come to Haili - bow instead of kissing

v. 27 **I COMMAND YOU TO READ THIS!** - great desire for their growth
clear understanding that this is not just the word of man - of God 2.13

Large percentage of congregation were illiterate / few had Bible copies

Paul is writing with his own pen now

v. 28 - Christian faith begins and ends with GRACE - ALL OF GRACE 1.1

TRUE CHURCH MUST RECEIVE GRACE & PASS IT ON TO OTHERS
anything less is not a sign of health and life