

**Title: Blamelessness**

**Text:** (1 Thes 5:14-24) \*23

The first half of chapter 5 focuses on Eschatology(End Times)

More regarding the Rapture is contained herein with the admonition to be ready thereunto than most anywhere else.

The book concludes with an extensive series of practical injunctions for day-to-day Christian living.

***(Vs 23) 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.***

In light of (Verses 14-22) & the performance thereof, Paul invokes that “the very God of peace sanctify you.”

The idea is, as we perform the 14 injunctions, it will enable God to sanctify (or make us holy).

Not Positional Sanctification we receive when we were saved, but the Progressive & Practical Sanctification of day-to-day holy living.

These 14 commands will lead us to Personal Holiness.

**God is also referred to as the “God of peace.”**

Indeed He is so mentioned four other times in the Bible.

In all four other references, it is in the benediction, after Paul has given them commands on daily, holy living.

He is our God of Peace, because we are at Peace With Him.

***Without Blame, Without The opportunity for Satan to accuse us.***

**As in the other References, this is the Apostles Benediction**

***“and I pray your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

***(1) There is a clear mention of the trichotomy of the human persona.*** God has so created us with a spirit, a soul (psyche or mind), and a body. (Made in God’s Image).

You are to be who God made you!

***(2) The word translated as blameless*** (amemptos) has the basic sense to ‘keep.’ He thus committed their spiritual keeping to God unto the coming of Christ.

Clearly implied is the security & preservation of God’s people in their salvation.

These 14 things brings personal holiness into our lives daily. Blamelessness is the condition to where someone cannot find fault. (2 Cor 6:3)

(Luke 1:5-6) Elizabeth and Zacharias.

The devil is constantly accusing us to God, and the non-believers in our lives.

(Phil 2:14-15) W/o Murmurings

(2 Pet 3:11-14) Blamelessness is our responsibility.

**14 injunctions to bring blamelessness.**

***(Vs 14-15) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. 15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both***

*among yourselves, and to all men.*

**(1) “Warn them that are unruly.”**

*This is not JUST the Pastor’s Job!*

**WARN:** *To give notice of approaching or probable danger or evil, that it may be avoided; to caution against any thing that may prove injurious.*

*To caution against evil practices. WHY?*

Sin has negative consequences!

Illus: *Interview with Diamond Dee: “Where were my Christian Brothers and Sisters telling me NO!?”*

Illus: *Rules without Relationship Breed Rebellion.*

Illus: *Devotion without Direction Lead to Disaster.*

Illus: *I wish God would change His mind on sin.*

*It would make my job SO much easier.*

As the Created being, I must submit to the Creator’s Judgment on these things.

(2 Tim 4:2) *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, **rebuke**, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

**You cannot Sin and Win:** (Prov 6:27-28) *Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?*

(1 Tim 5:6-7) *Pretty much my responsibility to try & warn you so God doesn’t have to punish for your sin.*

(1 Tim 5:20) *Them that sin **rebuke** before all, that others also may fear.*

This seems Cruel, doesn’t it?

NO, not when you consider how things actually work.

Every Un-natural Desire, Sin, Habit, Addiction, Compulsion:  
Is Referred to Strongholds (2 Cor 10:4-5)

We have given a PLACE for Satan to work (Eph 4:27)

**1st: Started off as a Thought!**

Illus: *Just as the Holy Spirit can bring things to remembrance*

*So can the UN-Holy spirits bring us thoughts to consider.*

(Eph 2:2-3) *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

**2nd: A Repeated Thought is a Consideration:** At this point, that thought has to be cast aside. (2 Cor 10:5)

**3rd: A Considered thought immediately turns into a desire**

(James 1:14) *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed - (seduced).*

(Eph 2:3) *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

**4th: An Unchecked/Unrepented Desire Produces an Act:**

(James 1:15a) *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin:*

This is where the WILL takes the IMPULSE from DESIRE and puts it in MOTION.

**5th: Undeterred, the initial act spawns other act, & becomes a habit:** A habit is a repeated act.

**6th: The Reinforced Habit develops into Stronghold:**

All of this can be avoided if the warning is given. (James 1:15b) *and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

It all starts as a thought!

There are many things we do not have control over, but we are Responsible to Choose the Thoughts we Consider! (Phil 4:8)

This is Why **“Warn them that are unruly.”**, because we cannot see the internal stuff until it rears it’s ugly head physically.

As Brothers & Sisters in Christ, WE need you to stand with the Word of God against sin and Warn People.

**(2) “Comfort the feebleminded.”**

Refer to those who are fainthearted. *Anxious, Uncertain.*

*Illus: What’s going on in your heart is a product of what is going in your eyes and ears.*

***What are you putting in your Eyes & Ears & Heart?***

(Eph 2:2) *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

*Illus: What goes in your Eyes & Ears goes into your heart, germanates, & bears fruit our your hands, feet, & Mouth.*

What TV shows are you watching?

What Music do you listen to?

What Pastors are you listening too?

***I can tell what has been put in, Based upon what I am seeing Come Out your Hands, Feet, & Mouth:*** (1 Sam 16:7)

*Illus: Faith is a choice, just like Obedience is a choice.*

**(2) “Comfort the feebleminded.”**

A. Refer to those who are fainthearted. Anxious, Uncertain.

B. Refer to those who are of limited mental capacity.

We are commanded to encourage these & not ignore them In both cases we are to educate, inform, & encourage to faith.

*Illus: Faith is a choice, just like Obedience is a choice..*

To Believe GOD in ALL Things!

**(3) “Support the weak.”** The word translated as weak (asthenes) refers to those who are weak from infirmity or sickness. We are commanded to help them.

*Illus: This is a great opportunity to reach other for Christ!*

Many people do not have family to rely on.

We can meet their needs & show the love of Christ!

(Matt 25:34-46) Christ takes it personally.

Serve other selflessly & Be W/O Blame.

**(4) “Be patient to all men.”** We are to be longsuffering & patient to all.

(1 Cor 13:4a) *Charity suffereth long, and is kind;*

(Prov 15:1) *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

Show others Christ! Be W/O Blame!

(5) **“See that none render evil for evil unto any man;”**

*Illus: TIT for TAT: “You don’t know what they did!”*

Have you ever presided over an argument between your children? *“He Hit Me, Well Hit Him Back!”*

Is that what you tell them?

Is that how you behave at work? I’ll just hit them?

**It is not our place to seek revenge:**

Essence of our Lord’s teaching of turning the other cheek.

(Rom 12:21) *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

(6) In Contrast to #5 **“but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.”**

The word translated “follow” has the sense to ‘pursue after.’

We thus are not only to do good, but to pursue it, both in the church as well as in the world.

***I can do this Because I trust GOD!***

**(Vs 16-22) The list of commands to be Blameless continues!**

For the most part, they remain as true today as they were then.

(7) **“Rejoice evermore.” (Vs 16)** or literally, “at all times”

(Phil 4:4, 11-13) ***I can do this Because I trust GOD!***

(8) **“Pray without ceasing.” (Vs 17)**

The word translated as “without ceasing” (adialeptos) among other things has the sense of **incessantly**.

(Phil 4:6-7) ***I can do this Because I trust GOD!***

(9) **“In every thing give thanks.” (Vs 18)** We are enjoined to give thanks regardless of the circumstance.

***I can do this Because I trust GOD!*** Are you seeing a Pattern?

**“For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**

It is God’s will for us to so give thanks!

To Acknowledge His Provision & Goodness.

(10) **“Quench not the Spirit.” (Vs 19)**

The Holy Spirit worketh as fire, by Enlightening, Quickening, & Purifying the souls of men.

As fire is put out by taking away fuel, **Or** quenched by pouring water, or earth upon it; **So** we must be careful not to quench the Holy Spirit, **By** indulging carnal lusts & affections, minding only earthly things.

We often hinder our growth in grace, by not giving ourselves up to the spiritual affections raised in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

(11) **“Despise not prophesyings.” (Vs 20)** The gift of prophecy was still in effect, at that time, as one of the gifts of the Spirit to the early church.

That gift would cease with the completion of Scripture as noted in I Corinthians 13:8-10.

The Telling Forth of the Word God is still in effect.

(2 Tim 4:2) *Preach the Word.*

(Titus 1:3) *But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching,*

(1 Cor 1:21) *Foolishness of Preaching*

**(12) “Prove all things.” (Vs 21)** Compare everything to the Word of God (Is 8:20) ***I can do this Because I trust GOD!***

**(13) “Hold fast that which is good.”** Upon proving or determining that a matter is spiritually good, we then are to hold fast thereto. (Micah 6:8)

***I can do this Because I trust GOD!***

**(14) “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” (Vs 22)**

We are not to engage in evil, but **ALSO** to refrain from even the appearance of it. **WHY?**

The devil is always looking for an opportunity to cast blame.

**(Vs 23) *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 Thus, We are Blameless.

**(Vs 24) *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.***

The very God of peace will preserve us blameless until that day.

Moreover, He is described as faithful.

No higher Descriptive Name can be made of our blessed Heavenly Father, than Faithful.

It is He who has saved us and who will faithfully keep us.

***I can do this Because I trust GOD!***