

they made for spiritual and moral discipline. <sup>1</sup>

The unity of the believers was the next step: which brings peace to the organization of the Church (I Thessalonians 5:13b; ref. Mark 9:50).

1. What were the three classes of the Church mentioned in I Thessalonians 5:14? (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

The Three Classes Referred To In The Letter: (I Thessalonians 5:14)

(1) The *unruly* were the excited busy bodies who were out of line, the loafers, the disorderly who were to be warned and seriously advised by the leaders.

(2) The *febleminded* are those who are timid and fainthearted who need to be comforted.

(3) The *weak* are those with no strength, more feeble, helpless, and sick: need prayerful support.

At the end of this verse, Paul adds that we as a body should also be very patient with everybody always keeping our temper, and see that none of us repays evil for evil, but always aim to show kindness (I Thessalonians 5:14b,15). We are to allow God to work out anything that others are doing around us that troubles us.

2. In building ourselves up in the Lord, what 7 things should we practice according to I Thessalonians 5:16-22? (1) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 493.

## THIRD STUDY

### PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S COMING UNEXPECTEDNESS OF CHRIST'S COMING (I Thessalonians 5:1-3)

Paul encourages the believers to be watchful for Christ's coming, but not to fix a specific date for His return (ref. Acts 1:7).

1. How did Paul liken the return of Christ in I Thessalonians 5:2? \_\_\_\_\_

Unbelievers will not be watching for the prophetic signs or the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Christ's return.

2. (a) What will these unbelievers be saying when this sudden destruction comes upon them? (I Thessalonians 5:3) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) How does Paul describe this sudden destruction in this same verse? \_\_\_\_\_

### ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSURANCE FOR THE TROUBLED (I Thessalonians 5:4-5;9-11)

1. Fill in the Blanks I Thessalonians 5:4-5:  
The Thessalonian believers are not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; but are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Despite persecution as a follower of Christ, Paul promises the saints that God has . . . *not appointed*

(chosen) His children *to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. What can we conclude by Paul's words "... God hath not appointed us to wrath?" \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 6:17 - *For the great day of His wrath has come; and who shall be able to stand?*

Because of Christ's death and Resurrection we can be comforted with the promise of the "Blessed Hope" of His coming; and that we will live together with Him (I Thessalonians 5:10).

RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE AWAITING CHRIST'S RETURN (I Thessalonians 5:6-8)

We are instructed in I Thessalonians 5:6 that we are not to sleep waiting on His comings, but we are to . . . *watch and be sober.*

1. What do you think Paul meant when he said, *Let us not sleep?* (I Thessalonians 5:7,8) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul then says that the unbelievers are asleep in the night and are drunken in the night; but we who have our eyes wide open are sober and are not walking around in darkness, drunk on the things of the world.

2. (a) Name the armour of Christ mentioned in I Thessalonians 5:8. \_\_\_\_\_

(b) From Ephesians 6:14,17, are the breastplate and helmet mentioned, the same. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, why? \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL EXHORTS THE BRETHERN (I Thessalonians 5:12-24)

Paul begins to exhort the brethren into Church discipline. They are told . . . *to know* (respect, appreciate) *them which labor* (work) *among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish* (instruct) *you; and to esteem* (treat) *them very highly in love for their work's sake* (I Thessalonians 5:12,13).

These expressions refer to the leaders over the Church.

The early Church organization was not complicated (cf. Acts 14:23). These leaders apparently guided the organization, managed the funds, and counseled in spiritual matters. They probably had to get whatever training they enjoyed "on the job." The phrase **in the Lord** suggests the spiritual quality of their leadership and their personal motivation, as well as the kind and limit of the authority exercised. From this and other passages we get an idea of how close-knit these Christian societies were, and how large a place within their fellowship