

## Introduction and Background

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

- Paul lays out a few \_\_\_\_\_ for us to discern truth from error in the life of the church here in this passage
  - this will be our last sermon from the exhortation section in the book of 1 Thessalonians
    - 4:1-2 Paul's exhortation to \_\_\_\_\_ a life that honors the Lord
    - 4:3-8 – Paul's exhortation to sexual purity
    - 4:9-12 – Paul's exhortation to \_\_\_\_\_ one another and work hard
    - 4:13-5:11 – Paul's teaching on the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus and His exhortations with regards to the \_\_\_\_\_ coming of Jesus (4:18; 5:11 – encourage one another)
    - 5:12-13 – Paul's exhortation on church leadership's role with the church and vice versa
    - 5:14-15 – Paul's exhortation on church life – how is the \_\_\_\_\_ to function
    - 5:16-18 – Paul's exhortation on \_\_\_\_\_
    - 5:19-22 – Paul's exhortation on discerning truth
  - but as we have said the whole time in this exhortation section, we need to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in front of us at all times and we need to be reminded of our need to depend upon God in \_\_\_\_\_
  - never want anyone to get the false impression that their \_\_\_\_\_ has made them Christian
  - only one person's obedience can save; Christ and His work upon the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Christ Jesus showed obedience and His perfect \_\_\_\_\_ for us by taking our sin and bearing the punishment we deserve to bear
  - these \_\_\_\_\_ truths are talked about in Galatians
- Galatians 1:4** who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
- so our salvation, 100% depends upon the Grace of God, the work of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit

- we need to pray and ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ us by the power of His Holy \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- as we look at how to discern truth and \_\_\_\_\_ from evil, we must depend upon the person and work of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and lean upon God in prayer, seeking His face!

### 5 P's for Discerning Truth

- 1) **(5:19) Put Out Fire**
- 2) **(5:20) Prophecies Don't Despise**
- 3) **(5:21a) Put to the Test**
- 4) **(5:21b) Persevere in Good**
- 5) **(5:22) Put Away Evil**

### **1) (5:19) Put Out Fire**

**Do not quench the Spirit.**

- Paul here gives us the exhortation \_\_\_\_\_ to put out the fire of the Holy Spirit or to quench the Holy Spirit

- this word quench means to "extinguish, or put out, stifle or to suppress "

- we know that the Holy Spirit is often connected to \_\_\_\_\_, in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit comes upon the first disciples what do people see?

**Acts 2:3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

- what \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit is Paul referring to here in Thessalonians?

- the Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_

- the Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity

- Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_

- we see in Acts 5 that Peter understands that the Holy Spirit is God because he equates lying to God with \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4)

- the Holy Spirit is put in a place of authority alongside of the Father and the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Baptism formula in Matthew 28:18-20 -- we are to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

- the work of the Holy Spirit is extensive in the life of the Believer!

- we are just going to mention a few examples in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament

1) the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ scripture and the prophets to write down the Word of God

**2 Peter 1:20-21** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- see also 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2) the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian to live a holy life

- by empowering them to walk in obedience to the scriptures and by opposing the desires of the flesh.

**Galatians 5:16-17** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.  
<sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

- see also Romans 8:1-11

3) the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ within the believer

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

- see also 1 Corinthians 6:19 and 2 Timothy 1:14

4) the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the believe

- this means that the believer is secure and safe in the work of salvation brought about through Christ Jesus

- furthermore, this means that when the Spirit of God comes into your life the Lord has ownership over you

**Ephesians 1:13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

5) the Holy Spirit is essential for bringing about regeneration in the \_\_\_ believer

- a person cannot \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is Lord apart from the work of the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

6) the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ us to understand the truths of the Lord

-we see this all through 1 Corinthians 2

**1 Corinthians 2:10** these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

- the Holy Spirit is truly involved in \_\_\_\_\_ from creation to the personal growth of the believer

- what Paul likely has in mind here , that they are not to quench the work of the Holy Spirit, is with regards to prophecy since this is the next \_\_\_\_\_

- in 2 Peter 1:20-21, the Holy Spirit moves the prophet in writing and speaking \_\_\_\_\_ from God

- we are not to put out the work of the Holy Spirit by \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit as HE speaks

- this fits the context of 1 Thessalonians , take a look back at 1 Thessalonians 4:8

**1 Thessalonians 4:8** Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

- for example, Paul teaches that if you reject the teaching on sexual purity you are rejecting God's teaching and ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ God

- God gives you His Holy Spirit to \_\_\_\_\_ you fight sexual sin!

- the Holy Spirit has inspired the Word of God which \_\_\_\_\_ we be sexually pure!

## 2) (5:20) Prophecies Don't Despise

**Do not despise prophecies,**

- Paul calls on this church not to despise or "to disdain or to reject or to treat without merit" any prophecy

- as you can imagine, prophecy is not only a huge topic, but a controversial topic in the church

- first we need to \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy

- prophecy in the Bible always had a "forth telling" and a "foretelling"

- "forth \_\_\_\_\_" refers to speaking the word of God into a situation

- for instance when you look to the book of Joel, the prophet calls Israel to \_\_\_\_\_

**Joel 2:12-13** "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

- "foretelling" refers to predicting a situation that is \_\_\_\_\_ to come about

- for instance when Micah predicts the birthplace of Jesus -- that is \_\_\_\_\_

**Micah 5:2** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

- the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ is no longer in the modern church, meaning that there is no new revelation from God or no new scriptures from God

- this attitude of despising \_\_\_\_\_ certainly applies to how we treat the prophetic Word in the Bible

- I recognize that different churches have different views of prophecy, but even if an individual claims that they are a prophet, any church would still have to extensively examine the person's claim

- each one of us needs to revere and \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God that has been delivered to us in the Old and \_\_\_\_\_ Testaments

- as well, if someone is bringing a message from the Word of God (ie preaching), we must examine it to see if it lines up with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

### 3) (5:21a) Put to the Test

but test everything;

- we are called to do a critical examination or to \_\_\_\_\_ all things

- when we look at someone's preaching and teaching it must all be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Word of God

- we see this practise in the Berean church as they searched the Word of God to see if what was being \_\_\_\_\_ was found in the Word

**Acts 17:11** Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

- there are several areas of \_\_\_\_\_ that we need to guard as we face trials from society and even trials from within the church

#### 1) Inerrancy Of The Scriptures

- we need to hold onto the truth of the word of God

- that God's word is free from error!

#### 2) The Unchanging Gospel

- we need to realize that the gospel does not change

- the truths of the character and work of Jesus Christ on the Cross do not become less significant as days go by

- in fact the gospel ought to be more important as we grow in the Christian life

**1 Corinthians 15:3-6** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

#### 3) The Humanity And Lordship Of Jesus Christ

- this was a serious issue in the early church and it still is a serious issue even today

- many people who call themselves church leaders in Canada do not even hold to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus

- but hear how John instructs us on such matters

**1 John 4:1-3** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

- we need to be sure that Jesus Christ is declared as both man and God!

- note that truth is \_\_\_\_\_ determined by your family history, your feelings, your desires, but \_\_\_\_\_ solely upon the Word of God

#### 4) (5:21b) Persevere in Good

hold fast what is good.

- “\_\_\_\_\_” of course is the complete opposite of evil in 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- we are to cling to good!
- we are to \_\_\_\_\_ to the good but also to carry it out or live out the good that the Lord commands in His Word!
- live out the \_\_\_\_\_ fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 as well as the \_\_\_\_\_ characteristics found in Colossians 3:12-17

#### 5) (5:22) Put Away Evil

Abstain from every form of evil.

- some translations have abstain from every appearance of evil
- you get the point, anything that is \_\_\_\_\_ then stay away and avoid it
- how do we know evil from good? - of course the answer to that is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word of God!

- Paul has already dealt with this issue in 1 Thessalonians 4

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

- this word “\_\_\_\_\_” really has the idea of keeping a distance from evil
- do you remember the story I told about keeping a distance?

- anything evil we must keep a distance

- when God commands that we avoid the evils of \_\_\_\_\_, let us keep such a distance!

- Job helps us understand what this verse is all about!

**Job 1:1** There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

#### Application

##### 1) Get Into The Gospel!

- Paul is very serious about this issue, the \_\_\_changing nature of the \_\_\_\_\_, in fact he says in Galatians that if he, or even an angel preaches a different gospel that they are to be eternally cursed
- so you should very much think that getting the gospel \_\_\_\_\_ is of utmost importance and eternally important

- when I was a child I had two choices for my favorite hockey team
- I could go with the closest team – the Detroit Red Wings or go with the closest Canadian team and what everyone in the family loved – the Toronto Maple Leafs
- well I chose wrong, I went with the \_\_\_\_\_, but that decision has no eternal consequence, in heaven it does not matter that the Detroit Red Wings have been 1000 times better than the Maple Leafs

- but getting the gospel right is very, \_\_\_\_\_ important and has great eternal \_\_\_\_\_
- for instance your eternal blessings or cursing depends upon it!

**Galatians 1:6-9** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

The Gospel Is Very Clear!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ is a holy/perfect sovereign creator who has made each one of us for His \_\_\_\_\_ and His purpose
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ have failed and rebelled against God because we have \_\_\_\_\_ against Him
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ in His Grace and Love deals with our wickedness by having \_\_\_\_\_ bear the judgment and the curse of the law by going to the tree or the Cross (Galatians 3:13)
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ receive mercy, grace, pardon and clean slate by receiving the grace of Christ through \_\_\_\_\_!

- let us never forget this \_\_\_\_\_ of grace, let us never stop cherishing the Lord Jesus and His work!

- I encourage you, every day, preach and remind yourself of the good \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

- just hear what Paul says in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonian church

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-15** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be s\_\_\_\_\_, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>14</sup> To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

- let our \_\_\_\_\_ overflow to God for His wonderful grace
- let us \_\_\_\_\_ and adore God because of His salvation
- and let us respond to His grace by clinging to the \_\_\_\_\_ and avoiding evil -- to His glory!

- furthermore if someone who is slick, good looking, smart, and charming comes preaching a gospel that does not line up with the Biblical gospel, he is cursed

- do \_\_\_ accept his message

- if you are outside the Lord Jesus please take this Jesus and His grace seriously

- the punishment and judgment of God is not an empty \_\_\_\_\_
- but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God through Jesus Christ is not a fairy tale false hope either
- Jesus is able to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners completely to the glory of God
- trust in His work, forsake your \_\_\_\_\_ and your sinful desires and cling to the Lord Jesus
- today get right with the Lord!

## 2) Get Into The Word Of God

- how do we discern \_\_\_\_\_ from error in any situation? The Word of God!
- how do we discern the truth about sexuality? The \_\_\_\_\_ of God!
- how do we discern the truth about how to treat our \_\_\_\_\_? The Word of God!
- how do we discern the truth about how to use our time? The Word of God!
- how do we discern the truth about how we are to function as a \_\_\_\_\_? The Word of God!

- Hear the Psalms and how they speak about the importance of the Word of God

**Psalm 119:105** Your word is a \_\_\_\_\_ to my feet and a light to my path.

**Psalm 43:3** Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

**Psalm 19:8** the precepts of the LORD are \_\_\_\_\_, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

- A pastor was talking online about how his family reads the Bible together \_\_\_ times per week.
- that is not really something to be bragging about
- certainly we ought to be a people who prioritize the Bible personally and with our families every day!
- certainly if we can keep up with covid numbers, Blue Jays, Maple Leafs and the latest news, we certainly have \_\_\_\_\_ for God's inerrant and infallible Word!
- today make sure you are feeding your \_\_\_\_\_ and feeding the souls of your family members by getting into the Word of God together!

- let this truly be your confession so you can discern \_\_\_\_\_ from error in this confused Canadian Culture

**Matthew 4:4** But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**Coming up next week:  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-26**