

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:2-28

Summary

This is the last section of a very pastoral letter from the apostle Paul. Paul ends it by praying that the God of peace will sanctify them together as God's people completely (v. 23), in order that they might be blameless at his coming.

The church is a holy building where God dwells by His Spirit (Eph 2:20) and how we grow up together as each part does its part, growing up in love. Paul gives final encouragements to them in order to help them continue to grow as God's people together in holiness as they wait for Christ's return. He does it

in three parts: Firstly, He encourages them to honour their leaders in the church, who work among them for their good. Secondly, he encourages the church together to care for one another, making distinctions between those who are idle, fainthearted and weak. Finally, he encourages them to grow in their gratitude towards and dependence upon God, and not to quench of God by despising prophecies.

These are three important areas for us to bear in mind as we grow together as a local church, waiting for Christ's return.

Sermon in a sentence

In order for God's people to grow together in sanctification they should respect their leaders, serve each other sensitively, and not quench God's Spirit among them.

Main Points

- I. The Christian church and leadership
 - a. Respect them for their position in the Lord and labour among you
 - b. Love them as is right for all Christians to do
- II. The Christian church and caring for each other
 - a. Admonish the idle
 - b. Encourage the fainthearted
 - c. Help the weak
- III. The Christian church and the Spirit of God
 - a. Rejoice, give thanks and pray together at all times
 - b. Do not quench the Spirit by despising prophecies

Other Scriptures:

Jeremiah 20:9, 23;29; Acts 2:3; Romans 14:1-4; 1 Corinthians 14:3; 2 Timothy 1:6; Hebrews 13:17

Questions

1. Are you more prone to distrust leadership or rely overly upon leadership?
2. In what ways can you respect and love the leaders that God has placed in your life?
3. How does Paul encourage us to serve our fellow church members and what do we need to be sensitive to?
4. How can we grow in this kind of service at RHC?
5. All of Paul's encouragements in verses 16-18 are in plural (we are to do them together as God's people). How can we grow in this as a church?
6. Are you more prone to despise prophecy or accept it without testing it?
7. How is God practically urging you not to quench the Spirit of God in your personal life and at RHC?

Think On This

Ephesians 2.20-22: "So you then... are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... being built together into a dwelling place for God by His Spirit"

RHC Core Values

Gospel-Centredness – To have the gospel in the centre of our ministry, and for everything we do to find its root in the gospel.

Experiential Faith – To actively seek the modern day work of the Holy Spirit, expecting him to move in our midst in signs and wonders, and to lead us to the will of God.

Theological Depth – To pursue a deep and soul satisfying knowledge and understanding of God through the Bible.

Community on Mission – To recognise that we are not here for ourselves, but are on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.

City Renewal – To see the gospel change every aspect of the city we are living in by doing social justice, integrating our faith and work, and seeing the city renewed culturally, socially and spiritually for the glory of God.