

## I Thessalonians

Class #137 – Tue PM 2/7/2006

### **1 Thess 5:20**

(20) Do not despise (or hold in contempt) prophetic utterances.

#### **THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF PROPHECY -**

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- 1) In the pre-canon period of the Church Age prophecy was considered a superior spiritual gift (1 Cor 14:1-5).
- 2) The gift [of prophecy] enabled the Christian to receive and communicate with authority special revelation from God.
- 3) Definition: **Special Revelation** – that message of God which man would not otherwise know apart from God supernaturally revealing it to him. (Special revelation ended with the completion of the Bible in 98AD).

**General Revelation** – God revealing Himself to man through nature and conscience.

- 4) The means of special revelation included:
  - a. The spoken word “Thus says the Lord” (Isa 6:9-10).
  - b. Visions (Isa 6: 1 – ee).
  - c. Dreams (Gen 37:5 - ee Daniel 9:10).
- 5) The New Testament gift of prophecy revealed future Historical events, hidden secrets of the heart and God’s directive will (Acts 11:28; 21:10-14; 1 Cor 14:24-25).
- 6) Females were given the gift of prophecy but were not to use it in the local church setting (Acts 21:8-9 cf. 1 Cor 14:34).
- 7) The gift accomplished four things in the church (1 Cor 13:3; 14:24-25).
  - a. Edification.
  - b. Exhortation.
  - c. Consultation / comfort.
  - d. Conviction.
- 8) The spiritual gift of prophecy ceased to function when the canon of Scripture was completed in 98AD (1 Cor 13:9-10).

#### **THE APPLICATION FOR US TODAY –**

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A. When the Word of God is being taught & your inner most thoughts are disclosed do not despise it. Be malleable!

##### **Heb 4:12**

(12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

➤ The Word may do surgery. Let it!

B. Do not look down or despise biblical prophecy. Realize - -

##### **2 Ti 3:16**

(16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

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### **1 Thess 5:21-28**

(21) But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

(22) abstain from every form of evil.

- (23) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (24) Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
- (25) Brethren, pray for us.
- (26) Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.
- (27) I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

#### **PAUL'S COMMANDS CONTINUE -**

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17) **"Examine everything carefully"** – put to the test, to approve something. Insure something is genuine.

- The protocol for prophecy in the pre-canon era of the Church Age (1 Cor 14:3-29).
- Gift of distinguishing spirits would validate prophecy that was given (1 Cor 12:10).
- These gifts made up for the canon of Scripture not being complete.
- There had to be a gift to determine the validity of prophecy [as coming from God] because there were so many false prophets running around at that time.
- Many churches were being infiltrated by false prophets.

*Application for us: we must use our spiritual discernment in things we read and listen to.  
Distinguish between opinion expressed and Bible Doctrine.*

18) **"Hold fast to that which is good"**

- Retain in your memory (your soul) that which is good.
- Discard the bad doctrine – hold onto the good.

19) **"Abstain from every form of evil** (degenerate activity)" – note that your volition is involved in "abstaining".

#### **1 Thess 5:23-24**

- (23) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (24) Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

20) **"Brethren, pray for us"**

- "Keep on praying for us."
- Don't be bashful about asking for prayer.

21) **"Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss"** – an expression of this culture of intimate fellowship. Similar to a handshake of today.

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- So, the Thessalonian church began with Paul preaching the gospel in a local synagogue.

#### **Acts 17:1-4**

- (1) Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
- (2) And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
- (3) explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."
- (4) And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

- Paul & Timothy & Silas organized all those who believed into an affectively functioning assembly of believers – it was their **attitude** toward the teaching of the word of God that began the spiritual advance.

### 1 Thess 1:1-8

- (1) Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- (2) **We give thanks to God always** for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;
- (3) constantly bearing in mind your [1] **work of faith** and [2] **labor of love** and [3] **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,
- (4) knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;
- (5) for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake (for your benefit).
- (6) You also became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, **having received** (to welcome with open arms) the word in much **tribulation** (distress brought about by outward circumstances) with the **joy** (produced by) the Holy Spirit,
- (7) so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- (8) For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place (the inhabited world of the Roman Empire) your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

- Paul & Timothy & Silas & the Lord were all unconditionally surrendered to doing the will of God.

### 1 Thess 2:13, 17-18

- (13) For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. The word of God is working in those who are believing it!
- (17) But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while--in person, not in spirit--were all the more eager **with great desire to see your face** (the bond of Christian fellowship). Spiritual camaraderie! Note also **Col 2:2**.
- (18) For we wanted to come to you--I, Paul, more than once--and yet Satan hindered us.

### 1 Thess 3:1-3

- (1) Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,
- (2) and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to **strengthen** and **encourage** you as to your faith,
- (3) so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

### 1 Thess 4:10b

- (10) But we urge you, brethren, to **excel still more**,

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Command 22 – “**Have this letter read to all the brethren**”

#### THINGS LEARNED FROM 1 THESSALONIANS:

- How to advance spiritually as a congregation.
- The spiritual advance is not about an individual but the assembly of believers growing together.
  - We are all at different stages of growth
  - We all have different spiritual gifts
  - Be patient with one another.
- Use YOUR spiritual gift for the benefit of the advancing formation!

**1 Thess 5:28** - - “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

