

1st Thessalonians

Conclusion [5:25-28]

- Personal Appeals [5:25-27]
 - Brethren, pray for us.
Ἀδελφοί, προσεύχεσθε [καὶ] περὶ ἡμῶν.
 - For the fourteenth time in this letter, Paul refers to the Thessalonians as “brethren”, a term of affection and kinship.
 - The word “pray” is from προσεύχομαι (proseuchomai) which means “petition” or “pray”.
 - This is the typical word for “pray” in the N.T.
 - Paul was asking for prayer in general for himself, Timothy and Silvanus.
 - Some manuscripts include the word καὶ (kai) which means “also” here.
 - This does not change the meaning of this verse and would fit with the exhortation in verse 17.
 - Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.
Ἀσπάσασθε τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς πάντας ἐν φιλήματι ἁγίῳ.
 - As Paul was given to do, he told the Christians in Thessalonica to greet one other.
 - The holy kiss simply means a warm greeting [Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Pet 5:14].
 - Today, this could be a handshake or a hug.
 - The phrase “all the brethren” refers to all of the believers at the church in Thessalonica.
 - Paul was trying to discourage any cliquish behavior that might lead to division within the church.
 - I strongly appeal to you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.
Ἐνορκίζω ὑμᾶς τὸν κύριον ἀναγνωσθῆναι τὴν ἐπιστολὴν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς.
 - The word “adjure” is ἐνορκίζω (enorkizō) which means “put someone under oath”.
 - This is a hapax legomenon and is a very strong appeal being made to the Thessalonians.
 - It is clear from the rest of this verse that this appeal is being made to the leaders of the church in Thessalonica.
 - We will translate this as “strongly appeal to”.
 - The phrase “by the Lord” makes it clear that Paul is making this appeal according to the Lord’s will.
 - This adds even greater authority to the appeal being made by Paul.
 - The phrase “have ... read” is from ἀναγινώσκω (anaginōskō) which means “read a written text”.
 - This word almost always means to read something aloud [Lk 4:16; Acts 15:21; 2 Cor 3:15].

- As in v. 26, the phrase “all the brethren” refers to all of the believers at the church in Thessalonica.
- As with other letters, Paul would desire that this letter be read among believers elsewhere also.
- Summary of 1st Thessalonians 5:25-27
 - In his conclusion to this letter, Paul requests prayer from the Thessalonians.
 - Paul understood that he needed them to pray that God would make his ministry effective [2 Cor 3:5; Eph 6:18-19; 2 Thess 3:1].
 - He would also have wanted them to pray for God to open doors for ministry [Col 4:2-4].
 - Paul also encourages the Thessalonians to express brotherly love to one another through a “holy kiss”.
 - That was an acceptable form of greeting in their culture and involved a kiss on the cheek.
 - Today’s equivalent would be to share a handshake (or a hug where appropriate) among the brethren.
 - Lastly, Paul makes a strong appeal to the leaders of the church in Thessalonica to read this letter out loud in the hearing of the entire church.
 - Paul knew the importance of having the Scriptures read before the congregation [Neh 8:5-8].
 - This letter would also have been copied and sent to other churches for them to read [Col 4:16].
- Benediction [5:28]
 - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μεθ’ ὑμῶν.
 - The phrase “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” is common in the closing of Paul’s letters [1 Cor 16:23; 2 Cor 13:14; Gal 6:18; Phil 4:23; 2 Thess 3:18; Phlm 25].
 - In this letter, Paul simply wishes that His grace would be with the Thessalonians.
 - Grace is for all believers and, without God’s grace, we would be unable to walk as we should.