



The God of Peace

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

A Summary of the letter:

1. Their receptivity to the message of the Gospel (Chapter 1)
2. Paul's integrity as a messenger of the Gospel (Chapters 2-3)
3. Their maturity, growing in holiness and hope through the means of the Gospel (Chapters 4-5).

Some Themes/topics we've covered in past weeks:

- 1:1-4 – Pray for each other.
- 1:5-10 – make a difference to those around us, by word, action and lifestyle.
- 2:13-20 – God's active Word helps us endure suffering and persevere in hope.
- 3:1-10 – our faith builds up the faith of others.
- 4:1-8 – God calls us to walk in sexual purity and holiness.
- 4:13-5:11 – we have the hope of Christ's return – of resurrection and eternal life in Christ.

Today's passage can be broken into two parts:

- 1) A Benediction (vs 23-24).
- 2) Final instructions and farewell (vs 25-28)

A Benediction (vs 23-24).

- blessed in Christ to be a blessing (Gen 12:1-3)
- Our God is a God of True peace (Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9 – see also 1 Corinthians 14:33; 2 Corinthians 13:11 and Hebrews 13:20.)
- GREEK WORD For Peace is the Hebrew word "shalom"

Shalom is "psycho-somatic-relational-racial-economic-spiritual wholeness."
Theologian Darrel Johnson

Peacemakers - "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."
(James 3:18 cf Matthew 5:9).

- Verse 24 - God who calls us is ever faithful!

Final instructions and farewell (vs 25-28)

- Pray for us (vs 25)
"For Paul prayer was a golden chain in which he prayed for others and others prayed for him."
(William Barclay, The Daily Study Bible, St Andrews Press, 1975).
- Greet one another (vs 26)

- Read letter to everyone (vs 27)
- The Grace of Jesus be with you (vs 28)

ACTION STEPS:

Call out to our GOD for true peace that you may need.

Pray for those who don't know God's grace and peace in Jesus Christ today.