

Doing Church God's Way (Part 2)



13 December 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

Luke 1:22-35; Romans 12:1-15

Eagerly Waiting for Christ's Second Advent

- Telling the REAL Christmas story with big word!
- (Luke 2:22-35) Those who were eagerly awaiting His first coming - Simeon and Anna! These are recorded for OUR learning. Let's LEARN! (Romans 15:4)
- We are NOT commanded to celebrate Christ's first advent but we ARE commanded to be carefully watching for and eagerly awaiting His second advent.
- IF we are commanded we have to ask, "Are we eagerly awaiting Christ return? Are we obeying or disobeying God's command?"
- What Are We Called to Do While We Eagerly Watch and Wait?
 - BE READY (Matthew 24:44; 25:10-13; Luke 12:40)
 - Be good stewards of the time and blessings God gives us. (Luke 19:13; Ephesians 5:15-17)
 - Wait, Watch and DO (WORK). (1 Cor 1:7; Luke 12:37, 43; Titus 2:13)
 - Obedient living. (1 John 2:3-4; 2:29-3:10; 5:1-3)
 - DOING the WILL of GOD. (Matt 7:21; 12:50; Romans 12:1-2)
 - Purify yourselves. (1 John 3:2-3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
 - Abide (remain in; live in) in HIM and His Word. (1 John 2:28; John 15:4, 7; 8:31-32)
 - PRAY watchfully and seriously. (1 Thess 5:17; 2 Thess 1:11; Luke 21:36; 1 Peter 4:7)
 - Make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Review from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- Responsibilities of Leaders:
 - ① WORK HARD
 - ② LEAD
 - ③ WARN/ADMONISH
- Responsibilities of Congregation to Leaders:
 - ① Know your leaders (test them). (Matt. 7:15; 1 John 4:1; Col. 2:8)
 - ② Highly esteem them in love for their work. (1 Timothy 5:17)
 - ③ Submit Joyfully to them. (Hebrews 13:17)

COMMANDS in the Word of God

- What do you do with the COMMANDS of GOD?
- Do you believe that you can ignore God's commands and He will not really care because Christ died for you?
- Do you believe that you can believe what you want to believe despite what your Church leaders teach and preach?
- Do you believe that you can believe **how** you want despite what Christ teaches?
- SIN IS LAWLESSNESS! SIN IS IGNORING THE COMMANDS OF GOD! (1 John 3:4; Matthew 28:20)
- Those who are truly born-again OBEY God's commands. (1 John 2:3-4; 3:1-10)
- The Holy Spirit (GOD) moved Paul to give us 14 commands to follow in this passage. Each verb is . . .
 - PLURAL: These are commands that the CHURCH does together.
 - PRESENT TENSE: These are commands we do ALL the time.
 - ACTIVE VOICE: These are command we ourselves do.
 - IMPERATIVE MOOD: These are commands. Not to do these commands is LAWLESSNESS. To disobey these commands is SIN.

Responsibilities of Everyone to Everyone (1 Thessalonians 5:14-22)

- Warn the **Unruly**.
 - Literally: "those who are out of order; undisciplined; a soldier who does not keep rank but marches his own way."
 - Those who are living in opposition to the Word of God.
 - Those who are not doing "their share" within the Body. (Eph 4:16)
 - Those who believe they do not need to be an intimate, serving part of a local church. (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20)
 - Paul will have more to say on this subject in 2 Thess. 3:6, 11.
 - LET's STOP HEAR and ASK OURSELVES: Do we want our brothers and sisters to WARN us? What would be our reaction when one of brothers or sisters approached us to admonish/correct/rebuke us?
- Comfort the **Fainthearted**.
 - "to comfort" means "to encourage with words" – Literally "to come close with words."
 - "fainthearted" is literally "small souled"; "discouraged"
 - Those who lack optimism and faith in what God is doing and is able to do.
 - Helping to get their eyes of the Lord and His Word and off circumstances.
 - See Colossians 3:1-3; Isaiah 26:3-4
 - **J**esus first; **O**thers next; **Y**ourself last.

- Uphold the **Weak**. - Literally “hold fast the weak” – Don’t let them fall!!
 - Weak during temptations or persecutions or trials.
 - Weak because of lack of knowledge of who God is. (Romans 15:4)
- Be **Patient** towards **All**.
 - We are to be **long-suffering** with the unruly, the fainthearted, the weak and everyone else in the congregation.
 - **We are not to withdraw from those who test our patience!**
- **Render Good for Evil**.
 - Not only are we to not have vengeance on those who do us evil, but we are to do good.
 - We are to pray for, **do good**, and bless even our enemies! If we are to DO this for our enemies are we not, too, do it for those brothers and sisters that may have hurt us in some way?
 - See Exodus 23:4-5; Romans 12:17-21; Matt 5:44-45; Luke 6:27-28
- **Pursue Good Always**.
 - “to pursue” is stronger than “to do” or “to practice.”
 - We are to do good with ALL of our hearts.
 - “Always” is emphatic!
 - “Good” means that which is “good and right.”
 - FOR ourselves - not what we think is good for us but what God says is good. What is good for us – DOING THE WILL OF GOD! (1 John 5:15-17; Romans 12:1-2)
 - NOT only ourselves but for ALL.
 - Scripture tells us what is good - NOT THE WORLD.
- **Rejoice Always**. (Philippians 4:4)
 - Reasons for rejoicing: my election, my salvation, my eternal security, my adoption into God’s family, my sonship, my inheritance, my God’s ultimate victory, my name being written in heaven, grace, mercy, etc.
 - Because of my **position in Christ** I can rejoice even in the midst of sorrow — see 2 Corinthians 6:10.
- **Pray without Ceasing**. (Luke 18:1; Col. 4:12; Eph. 6:18; Romans 12:12)
 - Many times we are taught and commanded to pray always.
 - How do you define always, without ceasing, be steadfast, etc.?
 - Prayer is what Christians are to always but churches (people) do less and less?
- **Give Thanks in EVERYTHING**.
 - We must always be thankful for what God has done, will do, and for who God is!
 - In everything and in every circumstance. God IS working ALL things for the good of those called according to His purpose. Rom. 8:28

- **This is the will of God for you**.
 - Rejoicing always, ceaseless prayer, and giving thanks in everything.
 - THE KEY: **in Christ Jesus** – In and of ourselves do not desire nor can we do these things.
 - GOD’S WILL is HIS WORD. To do God’s will one must know and do God’s Word.
- **Do Not Quench the Holy Spirit**.
 - We are to be FILLED (*pleroo*) with the Spirit always. (Ephesians 5:18)
 - How can I be filled with the Spirit to obey this command? By using ALL the means that God has given us:
 - ① Abiding in HIS Word. (John 15:5-7; John 8:31-32)
 - ② Prayer (Colossians 4:2, 12; Luke 18:1)
 - ③ Actively serving in a local church. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5)
 - We are NOT to GRIEVE the Spirit. (Ephesians 4:30)
 - We are to WALK in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16, 25; Romans 8:1, 4)
 - We are to be LED by the Spirit. (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16)
 - **We quench the Holy Spirit when we DISOBEY God’s commands.**
- **Do Not Despise Prophecies**.
 - “to prophecy” means to “forth-tell” the Word.
 - We, ALL, are to PROCLAIM the Word of God.
- **Test ALL Things**.
 - We must be certain that the SPIRIT of TRUTH (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) is present. (1 John 4:1)
 - Whatever message is being preached we are COMMANDED to test it. The only way to test it is by the WORD. (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 8:20)
- **HOLD FAST** (retain and guard) **to what is GOOD**. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- **Abstain from Every Form of Evil**.
 - This is in CONTRAST with the GOOD above.
 - **BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS!** (1 Cor. 15:33; 5:6; Gal. 5:9; Prov. 13:20)
 - Avoid EVERYTHING that does not CONFORM with the Word of God.
 - (Romans 6:13-14) Present our members (eyes, ears, mouth, mind, feet, hands) as instruments of RIGHTEOUSNESS not as instruments of UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

What About Us Today?

- ① Are we in AWE of God sending His Son?
- ② Are we eagerly waiting for God sending His Son again? Are we like Simeon and Anna?
- ③ What will we do with the 14 commands that we were presented with today?
 - OBEY or DISOBEY?