

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Thessalonians 5:14**.
- B. The apostle makes 4 requests. Elders are definitely under these commands. But all of us have a responsibility to each other and that to be faithful.
- C. Strong churches have these qualities.

I. **ADMONISH THE UNRULY (1Th. 5:14a).**

- A. The word *unruly* or *disorderly* describes a soldier who does not remain in the ranks. It is used in accordance with 5:8.
- B. Paul spoke of the good soldier not being entangled with the things of the world (2Tim. 2:4).
- C. This command is not to be overly strict in giving firm discipline, but hints at the idea of teaching to be done in the firmness of love.
- D. Very, very few, if any, converts are made by winning "Bible wars." People must be shown love and care before they will believe a word of truth. The people of the first century, who did not believe in the character of X, did not believe His words either.
- E. Today, we are soldiers of the cross, and do well to note that we might not "keep the ranks" and as fellow soldiers be sure that others do not go "AWOL" either. The Xian soldier is ready for the darts of Satan, either for him/herself or others (Eph. 6:12-17).

II. **ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED (1Th. 5:14b).**

- A. The KJV translated this term as *feeble-minded* and in our present day usage that may not be the best thought. The term has to do with what we love, not how we think.
- B. We become like that which we love. If we become fainthearted it is probably due to loving something else, or because we have lost our zeal (devotion).
- C. The sad commentary on the church at Ephesus was that after and grand start they had lost their first love, lost their zeal.
- D. It is difficult to be "on fire" all the time, yet we need to encourage one another to be just that. It takes encouragement and plenty of it! See Heb. 3:12-13.

III. **HELP THE WEAK (1Th. 5:14c).**

- A. I believe this to have reference (in context) to those who are weak in the faith.
- B. Again, we are brother keepers. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We can be hurt, as a church, "in the long run" by weak members who stay that way.
- C. It may not be a sin to be weak, but it would certainly be a sin to stay that way (Heb. 5:12-14).
- D. Stronger Xians are to help those who are weak (Heb. 10:24; Gal. 6:10).

IV. **BE PATIENT WITH ALL MEN (1Th. 5:14d).**

- A. Patience is one of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- B. Patience is one of the Xian virtues spoken of as perseverance (2Pet. 1:6).
- C. Patience is acquired by our suffering and enduring through trials. The humorous prayer, "Lord, give me patience and I want it right now!" is futile because prayer doesn't necessarily bring patience (Jas. 1:2-4).
- D. Patience is needed in working with all three kinds of folks mentioned in this text (the unruly, the fainthearted, and the weak).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. First Thessalonians 5:15 speaks of seeking after that which is good for one another and for all men.

Paul that same thing in Rom 12:18; "As far as it depends on you..."

- B. Pick out a situation or person in your life that needs attention and then apply these four things to that person or situation. See if this advice makes a difference in your life!
- C. Then try to practice these things on a daily basis.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.