

“The God of Endless Opportunities”

1 Thess. 5:14-15

The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People

Grace never gives up on helping the hurting by offering hope, healing, and wholeness.

The grace image is indisputable. Paul uses six imperatives in these two powerful verses, which are broken down into two distinct areas. The first deals with our actions and the second deals with our attitude.

I. A grace-filled action toward those in need of hope, healing, and wholeness (v. 14).

A. Grace admonishes the unruly (v.14a).

The word admonish is the same word seen in 5:12 (**noutheteo** [nouthetic]). Grace admonishes the unruly in two ways:

- **First**, it shows the emptiness of life without Christ (Col. 1:16 [“in Him all things consist”]).
- **Second**, it shows the inherent demerit of all sin (Rom. 6:23 [“the wages of sin is death”]).

B. Grace encourages the fainthearted (v.14b).

C. Grace helps the weak (v.14c).

It is the kind of grace that is stubborn, obstinate, persistent, and determined. Paul first seeks to establish the correct response toward the unruly, the fainthearted, and the weak. He then addresses the issue of attitude.

II. A grace-filled attitude toward those in need of hope, healing, and wholeness (v. 14).

A. Grace is patient toward all (v.14d).

The word patient means, “To be long-spirited.” It means, “to suffer long.”

B. Grace does not render evil for evil unto anyone (v.15a).

C. Grace does not seek revenge. Grace has no desire to get even.

D. Grace always seeks after that which is good for everyone (v.15b).

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God is calling us to this kind of grace. A grace that comes alongside of the hurting, a grace that loves without requirement, forgives without limit, sacrifices without return, and accepts without condition.

No matter who you are or what you have done, God stands before you with open arms.