

“Honoring the Pure and Objective Word of God”

1 Thess. 5:19-22

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

Paul continues the instructional section of the epistle by exhorting the church to embrace the objective Word of God. The five imperatives within the text suggest a habitual action: two function as prohibitions and one as an exhortation with two consequences.

It is necessary to put ourselves into the historical context of our passage; remember, at this point there is no New Testament. There was, however, an authoritative Word in what we call the Old Testament. It was during this time that God began to add to the Old Testament canon.

People would come to the assembly, like Paul, and speak. What was to be the response to the message of God? Paul gives us a two-fold action.

I. Do not reject the Word of God (vv. 19, 20).

Paul is using two primary words: quench not and despise not.

How do we quench the voice of the Holy Spirit? By ignoring the written Word of God. The Spirit's voice is silenced when we refuse to hear Him.

II. Test the Word of God (vv. 21, 22).

Though we are not to quench or despise, we are to take the necessary step to make sure what is said is genuine.

To hold fast is to cling tenaciously, not to let go. If the message you hear rings with authenticity, then grab it; however, if after the testing it fails to ring true, abstain from any form of the error.

What does this look like in our lives?

III. We honor His Word when we receive it.

A. Making the Word Feel at Home (1 Thess. 2:13)

B. Mixing the Word with Faith (Hebrews 4:2)

Continued on the other side...

IV. We honor His Word when we respect it.

Look at Nehemiah 8:1-12. Notice the progression of the passage.

There are four actions expressed by the people as they heard the Word.

- A. They Stood When The Word Was Read.
(v5 "And As He Opened It, They Stood")
- B. They Listened When The Word Was Read.
(v3 "Morning Until Midday [NIV 'Daybreak - 1st Light]")
- C. They Worshipped When The Word Was Read.
(v6 They Were In A Position Of Worship.)
- D. They Wept When The Word Was Read.
(vv 9,10,11)