

“Paul’s Concluding Remarks”

1 Thess. 5:25-28

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

Paul instructs the body along three distinct lines.

I. The issue of intercession (v. 25)

Throughout Paul’s letters, he calls upon the people to pray for him (Eph. 6:18-19; Col. 4:2-4; 2 Thess. 3:1). Paul knew the deep need he had to be the recipient of intercessory prayer. The great apostle appeals to the humblest saint, “Pray for us.” Intercessory prayer is a reflection of Christ in and through our lives for others. Intercessory praying is fruit that the Spirit is working in us and through us for those around us (Rom. 8:26). Consider Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25.

There is mystery to prayer that I do not understand. Somehow, God is performing His eternal purpose through the prayers of His people; that is a mystery, yet, despite my ignorance about prayer, I pray.

To pray for people requires several things.

- To pray for someone presupposes you care.
- To pray for someone presupposes you know.
- To pray for someone presupposes you believe.

Intercessory prayer is a divinely established means by which God is working out His will in you and through you to those around you.

II. The issue of intimacy (v.26)

The cultural relevancy of the statement, “Holy Kiss” is without question. Because the kiss is holy, any sensual connotation is removed. A holy kiss is a kiss of compassion, of brotherhood, of identification. Let us shout to our community the love of God.

III. The issue of instruction (v.27)

Paul’s last statement is an oath. Paul wants the church to review the letter often. It is to be studied and believed. Paul ends where he began (1:1 with 5:28),

Why grace? From start to finish to everything in between, it is from grace to grace. These truths sustain us in the midst of our heartache and sorrow. Grace triumphs.