



## Family Chores

### Week of February 21 , 2021

#### Intro Discussion Questions:

- *Optional -- If you read the Bible Reading Plan from last week, did any verses stand out to you that you would like to share?*
- *What is your favorite and least favorite household or outdoor chore? Why?*

#### Read Bible Study Summary:

At the end of Paul's letter to the Church at Thessalonica, he wrote some final exhortations (urgent appeal; advice; warning) to encourage their work as Christians. Paul had heard the people were worried about and focused on the second coming of Jesus in unhealthy ways. As a result, they were neglecting important things they needed to do as a church family. Paul addresses these concerns, and then in the latter part of the letter, he gives some very important instructions to them in the form of family responsibilities or chores. There are four basic responsibilities, two of which have an extensive sub-list of chores. We are told to respect our leaders and live in peace, to seek one another's good, to pursue the will of God, and to trust God's sanctification process!

#### Read Main Scripture

- ***Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24***

#### What Are Four Basic Responsibilities / Chores of the Church?

##### 1. **Respect Leadership and Live in Peace (5:12-13)**

- The leaders of this early church were called by God to lead during tumultuous times. Can you see the comparison to today? Paul is telling them to recognize those who have the gift of leadership and to respect them. Although at first glance this may seem self-serving for leaders, we need to be reminded that respecting leaders does not mean you have to agree with them on everything or every decision they make! That would be unhealthy.
- When we recognize that God is using a man to lead, in the end it is a recognition of God and his sovereign choice to give divine grace and gifts, not to recognize the man himself. The glory must remain with God even though we recognize the instrument. We should be discerning to know if a

leader is leading or teaching in a way contrary to the Word of God. Any criticism should be in love and to further the work of God. (John Walvoord, *The Thessalonian Epistles*, 90-91)

- **Ask Question** - *How would disrespect for church leaders lead to disunity and a lack of peace in the church? In what ways do you pray for your church leaders?*
- **Read Scripture** - **James 3:17-18** - *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

## 2. Seek One Another's Good (5:14-15)

- A second responsibility that we have as a member of the faith family is to seek one another's good. Paul is telling us as the church to be intentional about sharpening each other to resist what is evil and pursue things that will lead to our greatest good. To accomplish this task, Paul urges the church to do four specific "chores":
  - Warn those who are idle
  - Encourage the timid and help the weak
  - Be patient with everyone
  - Don't repay evil with evil
    - **Ask Question** - *Look at each one of these exhortations carefully. How would intentionality in these four areas bring about good in other believers?*
    - **Read Scripture** - **Ephesians 4:1-3** - *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*
    - **Read Scripture** - **Luke 6:27-29** - *"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.*

## 3. Pursue God's Will (5:16-22)

- A couple of popular questions people ask is, "What is God's will?" or "How does one go about pursuing God's will?" These are good questions, and Paul gives a list of "chores" which is a powerful formula for finding and doing the will of God! The list is as follows:
  - Be joyful always
  - Pray continually
  - Do not quench the Spirit's fire
  - Do not treat prophecies with contempt
  - Test Everything
  - Hold on to the good
  - Avoid every kind of evil
    - **Ask Question** - *Which of these responsibilities are difficult for you to implement in your life? In what ways will incorporating these actions in your life help you discover God's will?*
    - **Read Scripture** - **Proverbs 4:5-6** - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight*

#### 4. Trust God's Sanctification (5:23-24)

- God will help us accomplish our chore list. He will sanctify us through and through. "Sanctify" means to make holy, to purify. We have no holiness apart from Christ! God is the One who sanctifies, not us. And when we let God do the work of sanctification in us, you can be assured that he will be our strength, wisdom, and guide.
- Therefore, let's take care of our God-given responsibilities as members of the faith family and let's trust God to take care of His responsibilities to those of us who are members of His faith family!
  - **Read Psalm 37:5-6** - *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.*
  - **Ask Question** - *How have you seen God sanctify you through and through since you have been a Christian? In what areas of your life do you still need to trust in Jesus to be more like him apart from your own strength?*

#### Closing In Prayer

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.