

1 Th. 5:12-15

9/25/83

(5:12)

"We exhort" - Ἐρωτῶμεν. This was coming from Paul + Silas + Timothy: "we."

This comes as an earnest request. It would solidify their fellowship, make the people more receptive to the teaching. While given as a request, it was imperative if the church were to continue to prosper.

note: not only do the leaders have a responsibility to their people, but the people also to the leaders.

"To know them" - εἰδέναι. This probably means to pay attention to them, to cherish and regard them. See Thayer, p. 174.

"Them which labour among you" - τοὺς κοπιῶντας ἐν ὑμῖν. It means that their leaders were working hard, even when weary (Robertson, IV, 36).

"and are over you in the Lord" - καὶ προΐσταμένους ὑμῖν ἐν κυρίῳ. This describes the elders and deacons as those who stand before them, their leaders. Note the Lord's words in John 10:4, "And when He putteth forth..."

"In the Lord" means in the things of the Lord.

"and admonish you" - καὶ νοθεύοντάς ὑμᾶς. This means (in v. 14, to warn). It means to put sense into people's minds. This is nouthetic counselling. It involves knowing the Word, from which our guidance is taken.

(5:13) "And esteem them" - καὶ ἡγεῖσθαι αὐτοὺς.

This is a present infinitive. Regard them "very highly" - ὑπερεκτεροσῶς. This means that nothing should be permitted to supersede

their authority. God has vested the authority of His Word and of Himself in the spiritual leaders of the Church.

"For their work's sake." Note that it is to be a loving attitude, thus genuine and devoted, because of the position they have and the work they do.

Finally, "be at peace among yourselves!" Every believer is to be responsible for keeping peace, harmony, in the church.

So much for the resp. of the people toward their leaders.

(5:14) Then follow four exhortations which the people have toward certain people in the church and toward each other.

Again, "we exhort you, brethren."

1) "Warn them that are unruly."

On "warn," cf. "admonish" in 5:12.

"Unruly" - τούς ἀτάκτους. This is anyone who does not stay in his place, like a soldier who breaks rank.

2) "Comfort" - παραμυθεῖσθε, 2 pl. pres impera. of παραμυθεῖν, to calm, console, encourage.

"The feeble-minded" - τούς ὀλιγοψύχους, the faint hearted. These are those who wish to drop out, to quit.

3) "Support" - ἀντέχεσθε. This is to hang on to a person, to cling to.

"The weak" - τῶν ἀσθενῶν. This probably refers to those who are morally weak, who have trouble with sin.

4) "Be patient" - μακροθυμεῖτε. This prohibits retaliating against someone who has wronged you.

Verse 15 enlarges upon this.

(5:15) "Render" - ἀποδοῦ. This means to pay back, to do ^{to} others what they have done to us.

"Ever follow" - ἀλλὰ Πάντοτε τὸ ἀγαθὸν
διώκετε. This ^{is} to pursue the good, and this
applies both to believers and to unbelievers.