

## THE DILIGENT WORK OF PASTOR TEACHER

In this lesson, we enter Paul's closing comments to the congregation of Thessalonica (1 Thess.5:11-28).

In (1 Thess.5:1-10), Paul extended his study on the Second Coming of Jesus from (1 Thess.4:13-18) to (1 Thess.5:1-10).

He closed (1 Thess.5:1-10) with these **words that bridge over to** (1 Thess.5:11-28), "Let us not sleep (spiritual apathy) as other do but be alert and sober-minded." (1 Thess.5:6)

In (1 Thess.5:11-28), Paul turned his attention to giving **command instructions** to the pastor-teacher as well as to the Thessalonica congregation. Paul, in doing so, used **18 imperatives** (17 present and 1 aorist/ 2pl).

This lesson will study **five aspects** of Paul's first three present imperatives, **command instructions** (1 Thess.5:11-13)

**1. Our lesson text consists of three Greek sentences: (1 Thess.5:11,12-13a, 13b).**

- Verse 11 has the first present imperative and
- Verses 12-13 have the next two.

(1 Thess.5:11) "Therefore (dio) [because of this] (Ref. to 1 Thess.5:1-10, specifically 5:6) **encourage** (parakaleo/ **p.a.impv.2pl**) one another and **build up** (oikodomeo/ **p.a.impv.2pl**) one another. (pastor-teacher and congregation)."

(1 Thess.5:12-13a) "But **we request of you** (2pl), brethren (adelphos) [The Royal family of God], that you (2pl) appreciate those who (pastor-teacher) diligently labor among you (2pl) and have charge over you (2pl) in the Lord and give you (2pl) instruction, that you (2pl) esteem them (pastor-teacher) very lightly in love."

(1 Thess.5:13b) "**Live in peace** (eireneuo/ **p.a.impv.2pl**) with one another."

**2. In (1 Thess.5:12-13a), Paul offered a request from the Pauline team (erotao/ p.a.ind.1pl/ main verb) to both the pastor-teacher and the congregation.**

The request was issued in two parts: **pastor-teacher** and **congregation**.

**Congregation to pastor-teacher:**

- **Appreciate** (oida/ perf.a.infin) (1 Thess.5:12)
- **Esteem** (hegeomai/ perf.a.infin) (1 Thess.5:13b) **them very highly in love.**

**Oida (to know, appreciate, recognize)** is the perfect tense of **horao** (a pastor-teacher who sees something difficult to understand with clarity and develop it as an important doctrinal life principle to his congregation).

In our text, these believers have grown spiritually under Categorical Bible Doctrinal Instruction, understanding with clarity the Divine Appointment of a spiritually gifted, mature pastor-teacher of a congregation to which they are members.

**(hegeomai) (to acknowledge)** the position of the Divinely Delegated authority [headship: Eph.5:23; 1 Pet.5:1-4]; and for his teaching of Categorical Bible Doctrine to advance their spiritual growth in truth of the Word of God. (2 Pet.3:18, John 21:15-17) (to feed), and to **Esteem them very highly in love.**

3. **Paul laid out three primary ministries of the pastor-teacher to advance the spiritual growth of the congregation (1 Thess.5:12-13).**

**To the pastor-teacher:**

- “**diligently labor** (tous kopia/ p.a.ptc.aplm) **among you.**”
- “**and** (adjunctive) **have charge** (tous proistemi/ p.m.ptc.aplm) **over you in the Lord** “
- “**and** (adjunctive) **give you instructions** (noutheteo/ p.a.ptc.aplm)”

**To the congregation:**

- “**esteem them very highly in love**” - “**Because** (dia +accusative of cause) **of their** (the pastor-teacher’s) **work** (to ergon).”
  - **NOTE:** Esteem them very highly **because of their diligent labor**, not because of their personality.

**Principle:** The pastor-teacher of a church congregation does not work FOR them, but TO them for the Lord (“over you in the Lord”).

- A pastor-teacher is appointed by the Lord over the local church body to serve them in the name of the Lord (Eph.4:1-16; Rom.12:7); (1 Cor.12:28 compared to 2 Cor.10:8) (read).
- While there can be many spiritually gifted teachers among the congregation, there is only one pastor-teacher over it. He holds the office and responsibility as pastor-teacher to the Lord (1 Pet.5:1-4) (church headship).
- The pastor-teacher’s work is evaluated by the Lord both in time and in eternity (1 Cor.4:1-5, 14; 2 Cor.5:10; 1 Pet.5:4).

4. **One doctrinal point that Paul is making to both the pastor-teacher and to the congregation is to be of one mind in the Lord, cycling by faith sound Categorical Bible Doctrine (Titus 1:9-11; Rom.15:5-7).**

- Being one-minded in the Lord guards against divisions and quarreling within the church body. (1 Cor.1:4-6, 10-13)

5. **It is the responsibility of the congregation to know the qualifications of a pastor-teacher, whether for:**

- Choosing one for their congregation
- Choosing one to sit under for one’s spiritual growth and ministries in the Lord (1 Tim.3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 2 Pet.3:18).