

Comfort, Edify, Warn, Support, And Be Patient

I. Introduction:

A. The congregation that existed in Thessalonica existed in an area hostile towards the truth (**Acts 17:1-13**).

1. Their beginning was in “much affliction” (**I Thessalonians 1:1-6**).
2. Yet, they continued in the faith (**I Thessalonians 1:7-10**)...
3. ...Even though more afflictions came their way (**I Thessalonians 2:11-14**).

B. The fact is, the congregation in Thessalonica endured through those difficult times (**II Thessalonians 1:4-5**).

1. We know the Scriptures build us up (**Acts 20:32**).
2. Yet, if we want the endurance of those in Thessalonica we are also going to need each other (**I Thessalonians 4:9-10** and **II Thessalonians 1:3**).

II. Body: Think About How We Can Learn From What Was Taught To Those Saints In Thessalonica (**I Thessalonians 4:13-5:15**).

A. Comforting [exhorting] one another includes much (**Romans 12:9-16**).

1. The Thessalonians were told to comfort each other with words about the coming of Christ, we too should employ such (**I Peter 1:3-9; 18-21**).
2. We need to remind each other that life, death, and many other things cannot separate us from our hope our Lord (**Romans 8:18-39**).
 - a. Understanding they had the spirit literally (i.e. **Acts 8:12-24**).
 - b. We do not, therefore apply the context carefully (**II Timothy 2:15**).
3. Include reminders to be faithful (**Acts 14:22** and **I Thessalonians 4:1**).

B. We need to edify each other (**Romans 14:19**).

1. Opportunities arise through matters of liberty (**Romans 14:1-23** and **I Corinthians 10:23-33**).
2. Opportunities arise through conversation with each other (**Ephesians 4:29**).
3. For the sake of clarification, doing things for edification (**II Corinthians 12:19**) doesn't mean soft peddling things (**I Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:1-23; 5:1-13**; etc.).

C. Be at peace among yourselves (**Romans 12:18** and **II Corinthians 13:11**).

D. We must warn [admonish] those who are unruly (**I Corinthians 4:14-21**).

1. The unruly in Thessalonica (**II Thessalonians 3:6-13**).
2. Warning includes the withdrawal process of non-divisive brethren (**II Thessalonians 3:14-15** and **I Timothy 1:19-20** [cf. **I Corinthians 5:4-5**]).
 - a. I specify non-divisive for the process with the divisive is different (**Romans 16:17-18** and **Titus 3:9-11**).
 - b. Not all situations have the same way of going about handling them (i.e. **Matthew 18:15-17** vs. **I Corinthians 5:1-13**).

E. We must support the weak, feeble-minded (**Romans 15:1-3**).

1. Supporting the weak has applications that are spiritual (**I Corinthians 12:14-27**) and physical (**Acts 20:35**).

2. Those that are “feeble-minded” [little spirited; faint-hearted] really need support. Think about how dangerous a weak mind can be (**James 1:8**).

F. We must exercise patience [forbearance; long-suffering] with all (**Ephesians 4:1-3**).

1. Forbearance (**Colossians 3:13**).

2. Such a mindset requires true spiritual thinking (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

III. Conclusion: Remember, each one of us is vital to each other’s edification (**Ephesians 4:15-16**).