

Walter Cummins

I Thessalonians 5 is divided into sections:

1. Verses 1-3 – This is how you deal with people.
2. Verses 4-6 – Tells us to pursue the good until you find it.
3. Verse 7 – When working with others a believer cannot afford to be discouraged.
4. Verse 9 – We are told not to count our troubles but to count our blessings.

Philippians 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always. There is always a silver lining so look for it. There is always a lesson and a way out if the door slams in your face. Don't get discouraged about life because you can't rejoice if you're sad.

Proverbs 17:22 – “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: But a broken spirit drieth the bone”

Hebrews 12:1, 2 – Jesus Christ went through a lot more than any of us will ever go through and yet he didn't dry out. He didn't get depressed and want to quit. Oh I know that he asked if the cup could pass from him, that's normal that's human, he had to ask and when the answer came back “no” then he just went on with the plan. He didn't quit; he didn't get all depressed; he just kept running the race. That people is the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stay in the race and run it.

II Corinthians 7:13 – Keep joy in your twig and in your lives. Work gets very tedious if there is no joy in it.

Don't impose standards upon yourself that you cannot live up to. You will just be setting yourself up for a fall and for disappointment. Every person has to take credit for their own walk, when the rewards are handed out no one will be there to blame anything on so you just have to take the rewards and consequences for your own walk. Don't try to set standards on people that cannot or are not ready for that level of walk.

When you reprove people make sure that you are reprovng them correctly, according to their level of walk. I would rather not reprove anyone at all than be too hard on him or her.

I John 1:3 – This is written in family terms because it is in the family that fellowship is so important.

III John 2 & 4 – He calls them “beloved” and “my children”. Why does he call them these things? Because they are his family.

II Timothy 1:3 – When you have a family that you love you pray for them; you thank God for them.

I Thessalonians places emphasis on both the hope of the gathering and fellowship with the family. If you have the hope written on your heart you can rejoice. In that rejoicing you can encourage the rest of the family with the knowledge of the hope and you can all rejoice together. You have to be committed to joy.

What holds the Way Corps back from full spiritual maturity is the self imposed standards that we impose and cannot live up to. We therefore place ourselves in condemnation. Get over it and get real. Just live up to the Word. Be good leaders and minister to the flock. Feed the flock. Love the family in fellowship and encourage with the hope. Follow and live the fourteen imperatives of I Thessalonians and you will be fine. You will be true Way Corps the way Dr. envisioned it.

So that people is I Thessalonians. Thessalonians is the book on the hope. The hope that anticipates that generates and that is our final destination. The hope is the one thing that gives us something to look forward to in the darkest of times. In I Thessalonians we were given fourteen different imperatives that if we follow them we will be walking in the glory of the Lord. In I Thessalonians we are encouraged to improve our work of believing and our labor of love in view of the hope. All of your lives works should be done as a work of believing and a labor of love in view of the hope.