

Giving Support to the Weak.

1Th 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

1Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1Th 5:7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1Th 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Th 5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1Th 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1Th 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over/guiding you in the Lord, and admonish/(bring things to your minds) you;

1Th 5:13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

1Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

1Th 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

1Th 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

1Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

It would be great if the assembly of the saints consisted of folks that were faithful, strong, consistent, mutually concerned for one another. But it isn't. Never was, never will be, this side of eternity.

Even each individual will go through times and seasons of varying quality, faithfulness, faith in Jesus-ness, love and being spiritually awake-ness.

I like the fact that even Peter, Paul and Barnabas had their bad days recorded in Acts and elsewhere. Flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of God.

So, it's a good job we are here for each other then?

While we who have been born from above, of the Holy Spirit, are by this new birth children of the light, we do not always walk in the light.

Sometimes we may sleep, when we ought to be awake. We may be drunk on the things of the world. Getting drunk often leads to falling asleep. This is certain in the spirit. Friendship with the world is enmity with God. Getting caught up with the cares of life, which surround us every day, sometimes they are an onslaught. It takes its toll, wears us out, we may fall asleep.

Instead, Paul counsels, let us be clear headed, putting on our defence of faith, love and expectation of salvation. We have not been destined to wrath, but salvation through Jesus. So it is do-able. It is our destiny to be overcomers, through the Christ, the Great Overcomer. Whatever condition we may be in now, we know that we are kept for a salvation which is to be revealed.

Thank God our salvation is sure, not dependent on our performance, but purchased with the blood of Jesus.

Meanwhile, we need each other's help. Because we vary. Some of us vary a lot. Some of us may seem to need a lot of support, a lot of the time. That's the way it is. God has chosen the weak, the poor, those not learned by this world's standards. But He is faithful to us all, good days and bad. We all have the same value to our heavenly Father. We are chosen and precious. He will not give up on us. We must not give up on one another.

The stronger must care for the weaker. The stronger may not always be the stronger, the weaker may not always be the weaker. However there are meant to be older, stronger brothers caring for

the lambs of Jesus. Not super heroes, just a bit stronger, a bit older. You can spot the stronger as they are the ones who do the running around, concerned for their brothers and sisters. This too by the grace of God.

From the passage quoted it is apparent that from time to time we do need to be reminded of what are really basic, obvious things. This is because we can all get distracted from Jesus and those that are His treasures. Lets not be shy regarding reminding and encouraging, maybe even warning one another.

May we be filled with Him who sheds His love abroad in our hearts.

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