

SEAN G NOTES (1ST THESSALONIANS 5:12-28)

(verses 13-15 in the MESSAGE): And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love! Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.

ANGER & VENGEANCE

Romans 12:19 – “Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, ‘Vengeance belongs to me. I will pay them back, declares the Lord.’” (ISV)

12:19 We must resist the tendency to avenge wrongs that are done to us. The expression give place to wrath may mean to allow God to take care of it for you, or it may mean to submit passively in a spirit of nonresistance. The rest of the verse favors the first interpretation—to stand back and let the wrath of God take care of it. **Vengeance is God's prerogative. We should not interfere with what is His right.**¹

In other words, we are “vengeance blocking” God, so-to-speak... don't step on HIS toes!

HOLD FAST

We live in a world that doesn't like to come to conclusions. Think about it for a second. Coming to a conclusion on something involves thinking, effort, eliminating options, deciding, the possibility of being wrong, inevitably disagreeing with someone, and probably the biggest factor, quite possibly having to change one's beliefs or even have an entire paradigm shift.

As G.K. Chesterton said, “The purpose of an open mind is the same as that of an open mouth, that it might close on something.” Frankly, in a world where objective truth is an oxymoron, most people don't care much about “closing on something.”... ([Kirk Miller](#) – some nerdy theology guy.)

JOY (Relational-confident)

Romans 8:28 – “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (ISV)

Psalm 30:5

*For His anger lasts only a moment,
but His favor, a lifetime.*

¹ William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*

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*Weeping may spend the night,
but there is joy in the morning.*

Hebrews 4:16 -- “Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us **at the proper time.**”

4:16 Now the gracious invitation is extended: draw near with confidence **to the throne of grace**. Our confidence is based on the knowledge that He died to save us and that He lives to keep us. We are assured of a hearty welcome because He has told us to **come**.

The people in Old Testament days could not draw near to Him. Only the high priest could approach Him, and then only on one day of the year. We can go into His presence at any time of the day or night and **obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need**. His **mercy** covers the things we should not have done, and His **grace** empowers us to do what we should do but do not have the power to do.

Morgan writes helpfully:

I am never tired of pointing out that the Greek phrase translated “in time of need” is a colloquialism of which “in the nick of time” is the exact equivalent. “That we may receive mercy and find grace to help *in the nick of time*”—grace just when and where I need it. You are attacked by temptation. At the moment of assault, you look to Him, and the grace is there to help in the nick of time. There is no postponement of your petition until the evening hour of prayer. But there in the city street with the flaming temptation in front of you, turn to Christ with a cry for help, and the grace will be there in the nick of time.²

Ephesians 1:3-6

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He’s the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son. (Message Bible)

Blessed and worthy of praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ, just as [in His love] He chose us in Christ [actually selected us for Himself as His own] before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy [that is, consecrated, set apart for Him, purpose-driven] and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined and lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as [His own] children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the kind intention and

² Ibid

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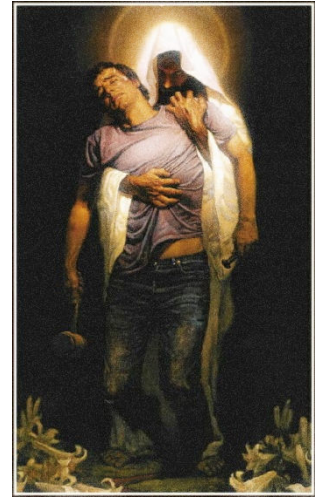
good pleasure of His will — to the praise of His glorious grace and favor, which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved [His Son, Jesus Christ]. (Amplified Bible)

How can we not be grateful and joyful in this.

SANCTIFICATION

Of all the benedictions in Paul's writings, this seems to be the least used. How unfortunate! "The God of peace" suggests the ancient Hebrew shalom ("peace"), that magnificent word used to summarize all of God's gracious goodness to us. This benediction reminds us that our sanctification—our being set apart for His service—is ultimately the achievement of God Himself. And it is wholistic, involving every part of our very being. To use this lofty benediction of "your whole spirit, soul, and body" as the basis for a technical argument for the trichotomous nature of human personality distorts its intention. Here is a word of praise and worship, not a clinical discussion. It is the whole of our being that will "be preserved blameless at the coming (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ." And all of this through the faithfulness of God who both calls us and does His work of sanctification in us.

This is indeed a benediction that deserves much more use in our worship gatherings.³



HE IS FAITHFUL

In-other-words, we will join the [24-elders in Revelation](#) in throwing our crowns at Jesus feet, for all the good "WE" did was in actually Him working through us by even creating these... good works in our heart, and the will and drive to do them for His glory:

- "There will be no jarring note in Heaven, no whisper of human merit, no claim of a reward for good intentions—but every crown shall be cast at Jesus' feet and every voice shall join in the ascription, 'Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Your name be all the glory of the salvation which You have worked out for us from first to last.'" -- [C.H. Spurgeon](#)

The Imperishable Crown ([1 Cor 9:24-24](#)) — The Crown of Rejoicing ([1 Thess 2:19](#)) — The Crown of Righteousness ([2 Timothy 4:8](#)) — The Crown of Glory ([1 Peter 5:4](#)) — The Crown of Life ([Revelation 2:10](#))

- [Romans 6:23\(b\)](#) — "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Amen

³ Gary W. Demarest and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, 1, 2 Thessalonians / 1, 2 Timothy / Titus, vol. 32, The Preacher's Commentary Series