

## **PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION.**

4 – 11 – 2007 am

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-24.**

***23 Now may the GOD of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.***

**Preserved = to guard from loss or injury by keeping the eye upon**

**Blameless = faultless**

The only way to begin to describe a passage like this is to hear it through the love and concern of a great apostle that wanted to see a people finish strong and accurate.

Paul wrote a lot of the New Testament and he had pioneered a number of Churches. He believed that what he had from GOD had to be shared with every single person under his influence, and thus he gave a strong charge that what he had written would be read out to all.

**1 Thessalonians 5:27**

***27 I charge you by the LORD that this epistle (letter) be read to all the holy brethren.***

**Charge = to put on oath, to solemnly enjoin**

**One of the most challenging things for a senior leader today is the attitude with which people may hear what is said – the leader may make a charge, but somehow the people hear a suggestion?**

**We need to create culture that restores honour and allows leaders to lead.**

**Dr Cho once said this, "*the way you treat your senior leader reveals the way that you treat GOD.*"**

**1 Thessalonians 5:12.**

***12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labour among you, and are over you in the LORD and ADMONISH you,  
13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.***

**Admonish = lawgiver, legislator**

I guess this wouldn't be popular in the ears of some as it sounds too strong – but what we actually see here is the mystery of leadership and followership. This needs to truly be understood if a Church community is to move forwards and accomplish what it is called to do.

**This whole passage we are reading from hinges around a statement in verse 12.**

***WE URGE YOU, BRETHREN, TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO LABOUR AMONG YOU, AND ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD.***

**Recognize = to see, to perceive, to understand the meaning or grasp the significance. This word always speaks of spiritual sight and always leads to belief and strategic action.**

Leaders are not perfect by any means, but there is a principle that needs to be understood about the need for leadership and the need for followership.

**Example: Tracey Berryman**

This is a very good example of leadership sending someone into a very needy area and that person responding with willingness and a good attitude. Guess what? It produced!

**Another principle is that those who have been sent or asked to serve in a particular area should always hold their position in a way where at any time they can be shifted to something else.**

**Hebrews 13:7, 17**

*7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the Word of GOD to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

*17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, **FOR THEY WATCH OUT FOR YOUR SOULS**, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

Let's now go back to the first scripture and look at another aspect of it:

YOU ARE A SPIRIT, YOU HAVE A SOUL AND YOU LIVE IN A BODY – AND THERE IS THE HEART!

**Matthew 15:19.**

*19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies*

*20 These are the things which defile a man..."*

**Example:** Isolation starts in the heart – if a person gives themselves over to meditation on selfish desires, it will produce isolation. (Proverbs 18:1)

The heart is made up of whatever a person has given themselves over to, or what they have been exposed to – The heart is a very powerful part of the human make-up, as it is designed to produce whatever is put into it – it is meant to be GOD's highway in the earth!

**Galatians 5:19-21 Message Translation**

All these things have been termed as works of the flesh, which they are, but JESUS said that these things can also enter the heart and this is the area we will give account to GOD for.

**Remember this word:**

**Preserved = to guard from loss or injury by keeping the eye upon**

**Our flesh is still fallen and still carries the traits of the old nature that used to also be in our spirits – if our hearts are not guarded from this selfish nature, it has the power to deceive us.**

***WE NEED TO RENOUNCE SELF!***

***ONCE WE DIE TO OUR SELF, WE THEN BEGIN OUR JOURNEY TO DISCOVER OUR TRUE SELF!***

***THE MORE YOU DIE AND GET RID OF YOUR OWN MIND, THE MORE YOU HAVE SIGHT!***

**Galatians 5:22.**

***But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...***

GOD's great plan for His people is that we would download these qualities into our hearts, as they are already resident within our born again human spirit.

**Once again this takes place as we give our thoughts and affections over to these things...**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8a Message Translation**

***Love doesn't want what it doesn't have***

***Love doesn't strut,***

***Doesn't have a swelled head,***

***Doesn't force itself on others,***

***Doesn't revel when others grovel,***

***Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,***

***Puts up with anything,***

***Trusts GOD always***

***Always looks for the best,***

***Never looks back,***

***But keeps going to the end.***

**Hebrews 4:11-13**

***12 For the Word of GOD is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

***13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.***

**Hebrews 4:12-13 Message Translation**

***GOD says what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no-one is impervious to GOD's Word. We can't get away from it – no matter what.***

Here's the thing: God's Word is able to penetrate between selfish motives and godly motives, between selfish thoughts and godly thoughts, and between selfish attitudes and godly attitudes.

His Word is as delicate and precise as a surgeon skillfully removing a cyst from cartilage. The Great Physician operates with perfection as he slices away our bad attitudes, thoughts, motives – and actions – "**laying us open to listen and obey.**" (Hebrews 4:13 MSG)

**Personal transformation** – God's surgery may be painful, but that doesn't mean it's bad or somehow wrong. It's often painful to let go of the wrong attitudes, motives, or thoughts that we've held onto for years.

*GORDON BROWN  
LIFE ADVANCE  
NEW PLYMOUTH*