

Lesson IV. PAUL'S COUNSEL TO THE THESSALONIANS Jan. 25, 1903

1 Thess. 5: 14-28. Study 1 Thess. 5: 1-28—Memory Verses, 16-18.

Golden Text—Hold fast that which is good.—1 Thess. 5: 21.

26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Je'sus Christ be with you. Amen.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

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.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Je'sus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Je'sus Christ.

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though Paul had been driven out of Thessalonica by wicked men, he did not forget the little company of believers there, who were still suffering many hardships for the sake of their new faith.

To encourage them to stand boldly on the side of Christ, even though all the world were against them, Paul wrote them a letter, which is now part of the Bible, being called "The Epistle to the Thessalonians."

In this epistle Paul told the Christians of Thessalonica, if they wished to become strong and useful servants of God, how they must behave toward one another and especially toward those who would do them harm.

"My dear brethren," said the apostle, "things may be against you just now, but be wise and very patient. Speak kindly to those who are quarrelsome, that they may not become the more unruly. Show your love to Christ by looking after the sick and feeble, rather than in disputing about rules and doctrines. And be especially thoughtful for any who are feeble-minded, or in any

way less favored than you yourselves are.

"If some unkind person does you a wrong, do not pay him back in the same way, but treat others always as you would be treated yourself.

"Follow that which is good, not only towards those who believe as you do, but with every one with whom you have anything to do.

"At the same time be joyful, be prayerful, be thankful, for such things are pleasing in the sight of God.

"And if at any time you should not be sure as to what you ought to do, keep away from everything that has about it even the least look of wrong, and listen to the voice of God's Spirit, whom He will send to be your Guide and Comforter.

"Above all, pay much attention to the teachings of God's Word as well as to those of all good men. Do not depend altogether upon what others say, but decide things for yourselves, holding fast that which is good, remembering that the great and faithful