

Jeff Lingerfelt  
PO Box 12131, SC 29211  
803-467-7634  
[Jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org](mailto:Jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org)

**LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS  
MINISTERING TO ONE-ANOTHER (PT. 2)  
1THESSALONIANS 5:12-22**

*But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,<sup>13</sup> and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.<sup>14</sup> **We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.**<sup>15</sup> See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always;<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing;<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit;<sup>20</sup> do not despise prophetic utterances.<sup>21</sup> But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;<sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.*

### "PITHY PARADIGM"

*It is not easy for persons of a strong, brave spirit, who are accustomed to look with contempt on the little trials and sufferings in their own life—to have patience with those who are really weak and unable to endure; or with those who so magnify their little ills and troubles. But if the strong would become real helpers of the weak, they must learn to be patient with every phase of their weakness, and to condescend to it. Indeed, weakness of this kind needs comfort that will cure it and transform it—into manly strength. Sympathy, to be truly rich and adequate, in its helpfulness, must be able to enter into every form of suffering, even the smallest, and to listen to every kind of complaining and discontent, to every fear and anxiety, however needless.*

**The Ministry of Comfort—J. R. Miller, 1912**

The Church of Thessalonica was in need of spiritual growth. Although Paul had reminded them of the good progress (4:1 & 4:10) they had accomplished there was still a need for one another to be vitally involve in the lives of each other. We all have weaknesses and deficiencies in our life and at times we are blinded to those things that beset us. We all need each other!

In our text we are exhorted to become involved in one another lives. There are listed 5 behaviors that stifles growth within the body of the church. We have addressed the first two.

**1. "ADMONISH THE UNRULY"** The **Wayward** have an active and rebellious attitude. They were out of step with the direction everyone else was headed. These people needed warning. They needed sense put into their head, alerting them of the impending danger that lie ahead.

### 2. "ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED"

These are the **Worried**, small souled folks who had become discouraged and despondent because of life's circumstances which had come upon them and had brought them to the point of timidity. Life's circumstances had dealt a crippling blow, so much so, as Webster states they would not assert themselves in a healthy way, thus lacking boldness.

### 3. "HELP THE WEAK"

These folks were the **Weak** among the assembly who were in need of bearing and carrying. They needed to be held close because as MacArthur states—"fainthearted describes people who are simply deficient in some way (1Cor 1:27). Their deficiency may be a lack of education, opportunities, or finances, or perhaps a physical problem. These people sometimes find it harder to do what is right because of their "weaknesses." According to Paul, they need more than encouragement: they actually need someone to come alongside and help them to do what they need to do." (MacArthur, J., F., Jr, Mack, W. A., & Master's College. Introduction to Biblical Counseling: Word Pub)

From a spiritual perspective these who are Weak are susceptible to sin and applies to believers who struggle with abandoning sin and obeying God's will... The weak are always impediments and stumbling blocks to growth and power in the church. (MacArthur, John: 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Moody Press).

**YOU ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS YOUR  
WEAKEST LINK.**

**Acts 20:35** In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must *help the weak* and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

**Romans 15:1** Now we who are strong ought to *bear the weaknesses* of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

The strong and mature must come to the aid of those without strength.

**Galatians 6:1-2** Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. *Bear one another's burdens*, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

**4. BE PATIENCE WITH EVERYONE.** When dealing or discipling anyone there comes a point where their behaviors or actions exacerbate you because of the slowness of heeding your warnings and admonitions. These church members are **Wearisome** and slow of spiritual growth. You may be tempted to become impatient thus the instruction is to be patience.

We have all experienced situations where we have been impatient. The sad reality is we know all too well what impatience is when we all need to learn to foster and nurture patience with people and circumstances. This is a word that may be best seen in what it is not or its opposite. When you see or experience angry tempers, fierce indignation, outbursts of anger, passion, rage and wrath, you are not experiencing or exhibiting biblical patience.

This word means a prolonged restraint of "*thumos*," of emotion, anger or agitation. It means one's temper is long (as opposed to "short tempered") and does not give way to a short or quick temper toward those who fail. It describes holding out of the mind for a long time before it gives room to action or passion. The picture of this word is that of a person in whom it takes a long time before fuming and breaking

into flames! We are to manifest a "long fuse" before we "blow up"!

We and this church are to have endless and boundless patience with those who are wearisome. They are slow to react; so must you and I be slow to react in the negative direction. We are all God's sheep. Remember how patience He has been with you? So must we exhibit Christ-like patience in our love and care for others.

**2 Timothy 2:24-25** The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

**Colossians 3:12-13** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Are you helping the weak among your sphere of influence?

Are you infinitely patient with those who "get under your skin"?

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to help and assist others?

### LEGISLATIVE BIBLE STUDY

Blatt Rm. 317—Wednesday, 8:30am

Prayer Request-[jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org](mailto:jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org)