1Thess #114

As you openly live for Christ, you lift up others.

Open back up in 1Thessalonians chapter five.

I should be hearing back from Westbow publisher soon about the ANGEL book. They told me it would be 3 weeks for the first edit and setting up the outline of the book.

I also gave them a basic concept on the cover art so that should be coming soon as well.

Please keep that in prayer.

1Thes 5:7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night.

The Apostle Paul used several contrasts within this set of scriptures as a teaching tool for the Bels at Thessalonica.

[1Th 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/8/s_1116008) But since we are of *the* day, let’s be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

In other words… get back to the path toward maturity, do not get sidetracked by false teaching.

[1Th 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/9/s_1116009) For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

As I touched on last lesson God’s plan from eternity past had to be filtered through HIS divine Justice System.

Only the righteousness of the innocent Lamb of God - Jesus Christ, could satisfy the justice of God for the sins of the world.

That was established and laid down in eternity past as a legal verdict. All fallen mankind has to do is mentally pick up what GOD has already established for us.

We have to take our free will and look to the Cross of Jesus Christ, accepting that HE is the only Lord and savior.

**/**[1Th 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/10/s_1116010) who died for us, so that **whether we are awake or asleep**, we will live together with Him.\

1Thes 5:11 Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.

It is by the merits, grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that salvation is available to a lost and dying world.

Our salvation therefore is secured by the legal system in heaven, which is tethered to the integrity of GOD.

God’s justice system is directly connected to HIS divine integrity.

IT IS FLAWLESS…a perfect justice system.

/Our hope and faith are grounded on, Christ's atonement as well as God's appointment for all of us. We should remain thoughtful of God's gracious design and purpose, so also on Christ's death and sufferings, which in full retrospect is ALL GRACE, that no one can earn or deserve.

1Thes 5:10 - *whether we are awake (alive) or asleep (death), we will live together with Him.* (UNION) \

The grace plan of God the Father ensures we are always in union with Christ at salvation and forever. Eternal security is never in question!

Jump over to 2Corithians chapter five RF.

The Apostle Paul is giving a hint to the fact that a Bel dead or alive is always in union with Christ.

Death for a Bel in the CA means face to face with the LORD!

The statement is - *we should live together with Christ*, live in union and in glory with Him forever. Christ died for us, that, living and dying, we our HIS; that we might live for Him while we are here, and live with Him when we go home to see HIM.

 REPEAT

Look what Paul taught about eternal security at Corinth;

2Cor 5:6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—

/[2Co 5:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/7/s_1083007) for **we walk by faith**, not by sight—

When the Bel heading toward maturity is visibly walking in their faith, they lift up others in their periphery, often times, without even knowing it!\

Satan wants you to walk by sight, because he can manipulate that!

[2Co 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/8/s_1083008) but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

The courage we have is not from the flesh, this speaks to a Bel understanding eternal security and walking in that confidence.

Once saved….always saved!

/[2Co 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/9/s_1083009) Therefore we also have as **our ambition, whether at home or absent**, to be pleasing to Him.

Your life changed dramatically at salvation. The Bel who recognizes this begins a transformation of ambition and desires that fulfill a ministry for Christ.\

The Bel who is on a journey toward maturity mountain, begins to have a change of heart over time. What the world offers and the dreams or desires of the flesh slowly peel away and living for Christ becomes much more appealing.

[2Co 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/10/s_1083010) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

ALL BELS will appear at this evaluation.

Every Bel will stand in front of the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ after the Rapture and answer for what they did in the new nature – what did you do with your time, talent and treasure after salvation?

Every Bel will face that question.

[2Co 5:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/11/s_1083011) Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people, but we are well known to God; and I hope that we are also well known in your consciences.

When you fully acknowledge your union with Christ is not only permanent it is eternal, it means you are known intimately by the Creator of the universe.

HE knew about you millions of years ago.

From the point of salvation going forward to endless amounts of time and space you will be with Christ.

What you do everyday after salvation is looked upon as another day you could get closer to Christ. And in doing so, you can become an invisible hero and touch the lives of many people around you.

You can have a historic impact like a Peter, Paul, Job or Abraham.

/1Thes 5:11 Therefore, **encourage one another and build one another up,** just as you also are doing.

In a short period of a few months, the Bels at Thessalonica had begun to evangelize and touch the culture all around them. \

We are studying them today – that is the sign of an invisible hero.

Go over to 1Peter chapter two.

The nature of Christ is one willing to sacrifice for others, one of selflessness, one who is about HIS Father’s business.

If you are walking habitually in your new nature this will begin to become evident in your life. Not overnight….but eventually.

/2Cor 3:3 revealing yourselves, that **you are a letter of Christ**, delivered by us, written not with ink **but with the Spirit of the living God,** not on tablets of stone but **on tablets of human hearts**.\

Your life as a Christian can have a massive impact in the positive or the negative realm.

/As Christians we are living stones built up together as a spiritual house, we should seek to promote the good of the whole church by promoting the work of grace in one another. And it is the duty of every one of us to study that which is for the edification of not only self but those with whom we touch daily. \

TLJC is the Chief Corner Stone which everything is connected too and built upon.

1Pet 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

The cosmic system will always reject the truth of Jesus Christ – HIS mind is the only cleansing agent for counterfeits and false teaching.

/[1Pe 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/5/s_1153005) **you also, as living stones, are being built up**(*oikodomeō*)**as a spiritual house** for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Written in a present tense – keep on building this structure. Edification Complex of the Soul, which enables spiritual growth.\

OIK-AH-DEMAYO, comes from a root word that actually means edification, it is a word used for construction.

This is the inner construction – the doctrinal library we build in our soul structure.

You can not lift up others if you do not have the hope, faith and knowledge to spread among those in your life.

[1Pe 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/6/s_1153006) For *this* is contained in Scripture:
“BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

(Isa 28:16)

[1Pe 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/7/s_1153007) This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers,
“A STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE,”

Jesus Christ was rejected by the Jews but also the majority of people who once stood in wonder of HIS wisdom and healing abilities – rejected HIM at the CROSS!

Only a handful of serious disciples kept their faith in HIM at the cross.

The opinions of the world will always vary and in many cases, attack you for standing in truth.

[1Pe 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/8/s_1153008) and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;
*for* they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.

God knew in eternity past who would reject HIS precious SON.

/[1Pe 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/9/s_1153009) But you are **A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A royal PRIESTHOOD**, A HOLY  NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of **Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

Every Believer is a priest; every Believer is in full-time Christian service.\

This is our calling whether we ignore this or not makes no difference- you still are in full time Christian service after salvation.

We should communicate our knowledge and experiences to one another. We should join in prayer with another.

/We should set a good example for each other. And it is the duty of those especially who live in the same vicinity and family to comfort and edify one another. Your life is an open letter in the name of Jesus Christ! What does your letter say? \

Bels should have empathy and affection for other people, without losing their integrity and strength of their convictions.

/The Bels known as Thessalonians did a wonderful job with the basic concepts of the gospel and their calling to spread the WORD to a lost and dying world. It was the teaching of Eschatology that became corrupted from false teaching allowed in to the congregation by a few, that became the problem. This brings into view the doctrinal concept of –

*Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. (1Cor 5:6)* \

This becomes the cancer that spreads and it is up to mature Bels and those in leadership to nip it in the bud!

Let’s close in Galatians chapter six RF.

You cannot have solid BD without learning the proper context of the WORD, therefore you cannot be in a position to help others and have the solutions or answers if you are not doctrinally sound yourself.

Don’t settle for the church down the block or that which is convenient when it comes to growing in God’s grace and knowledge.

 REPEAT

I believe it was Col. R.B. Thieme Jr. who made the statement – *There are no mandates for face to face teaching, there never has been.*

The emphasis is upon getting under the right teacher who accurately handles the word.

My mentor and teacher stated this as well – in fact Pastor Bob, had a large internet following, we did Bible Conferences in Pennsylvania, California, Arizona and Florida.

Make the effort to find truth and make sure it is academically honest and taught by a prepared man of GOD!

/Gal 6:1 Brothers *and sisters,* even **if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness**; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.

No matter who you are dealing with always have a heart of empathy and reconciliation.\

Keep in mind we all have turns at victim and villain…just because this month you were the victim or the good guy, next month you may well be the villain or the loser.

/[Gal 6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/2/s_1097002) **Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ**. 3For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, **he deceives himself**.

Operate in your new nature, so that impersonal, unconditional love will flow from you. Keep in mind – self deception is very subtle and very painful in the end.\

Remember operating in empathy means you try to relate with a person’s pain or struggle it does not mean you make excuses for them or remove them from their struggle.

Be careful when you want to quickly save someone. They may need to be in a difficulty to learn a lesson or that GOD may be at work and you get in the way!

 REPEAT

/Always approach fellow Bels with a heart of reconciliation and always maintain empathy in all cases (Bel or Unbel). The time to separate will become obvious after you have spent the time of nurturing and compassion and God the HS guides you to finally pull away from that person or situation. Godly love does not compromise truth or justice – standing strong in your convictions’ does not mean unnecessary cruelty. \