1Thessalonians 12-06-08b

We're in 1st Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 11 having Seen the exhortation to not sleep as others do but to watch and be sober to put on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation, I hope I It's probably superfluous for me to point out that that is your triad of Christian virtues right there faith hope and love These are the things that make our Spiritual life functional any one of which lacking Slows us way down. We will inevitably spiral off. We will leave the narrow road We will miss the straight gate We will end up not walking in the light if all of these things are not Present and healthy and we can check these they're different aren't they what's the difference in faith hope and love? Faith this is Directly related to the content of what we know about God and his plan and his purpose through his word, right? You can't have faith if you do not have something to believe What do we believe and it isn't what I believed when I got saved It isn't what I believe if somebody asks me a theological question.

What is faith? We walk by faith, right? So what are the beliefs that condition my day? Do I believe that? God Watches over me. Do I believe that God? makes provision Do I believe that? His promises are true Do I believe that if I ask and if I seek and if I knock he will? Open to me the truth and will lead me and guide me that he cares for me That the Lord Jesus Christ is on high at his right hand interceding for me that his Holy Spirit is with me guiding me Identifying for me the truth bringing it to my mind when I need it. Do I believe these things ie do I walk by them? How do I get through my day What are the beliefs if I believe that the best thing I can do today is have fun the best thing I can do today is Dispense with everything else and get to my hobby or my point of interest or my dancing with the stars or my American Idol or my NCIS or my whatever it may be If that's my belief if I say, you know What's really gonna be the highlight of my day is this and it has nothing whatever to do with our life before God Faith is lacking Faith is not the abstract faith is not the theology faith is not what's written in the notebook Faith is not what's in the margin of our Bibles faith isn't even what we have by way of memory verses Faith is what we walk by because we walk by faith Everybody walks by faith the rankest atheist unbeliever secular humanist moralist cheese-eating mushroom crunching Ne'er do well in the world is walking by faith.

They have faith in their own little construction of the universe It's evolutionary. It's cause and effect. It's fate.

It's kismet. It's Allah. It's Buddha It's whatever it may be Your Hindus everybody walks by faith everybody walking period you Trust that the mechanism in your inner ear is going to give you balance and you're not going to go Falling down and breaking your nose Everybody walks by faith What is your faith our faith as part of this triad of Christian virtues the threefold? support for our soul and spirit Has got to rest on the Word of God it is the solid rock all other ground is sinking sand so This is the way God leads us.

This is the way God guides us The Holy Spirit is mute if we do not have the truth and content of God's Word. That's our faith That's how we walk not much point in walking I Was reminded today of how flat wide and Lacking in landmarks the desert can be you get a map of the desert and If it's a big desert and nice and flat the map is just a big blank sheet of paper, right? so Where do you go? What what do you do the map tells me nothing right? We Have to check ourselves to see if we are in the faith examine yourself see if you are in the faith and love faith is the beginning and Love is the end of our Understanding of God's plan and purpose the what

comes into us what builds us up what gets us going what winds up our Mainspring is faith when we let that thing go and hit the on switch and we start applying and Acting and bearing fruit. This is going to be love Love seeketh not its own.

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not puffed up Love endures it forbears it forgives All of these are a part of our interaction with one another and if our faith is healthy It will manifest itself in love faith works itself out in love you can't have love if you don't have faith and if your faith is of Any quality at all it cannot help but express itself in love the two are Sides of the same coin faith on one side love on the other they are inextricably linked They are bound together one does not exist without the other.

That's why the breastplate is faith and love That you can't separate them. You can't if there's no love. There's no faith Period and as a helmet hope as a Helmet, this is the seat of your intellect.

This is where you make your decisions This is where you set your priorities. This is where you establish your goals This is where you observe your values in life is in your head, right? This is the planning area This is the directional area. This is the observational area.

How am I going to continue to? build my faith I've got to see I've got to make decisions. I've got to plan for Meditation in the Word of God intake of the Word of God prayer in the light of the Word of God I've got to decide these things plan these things If you have no plan You will accomplish no purpose. I Say again if you have no plan you will accomplish no purpose God has a purpose does he not? to manifest his glory to Redeem and deliver his people to glorify his son to Move us forward into eternal relationship and existence with him and to affect that purpose God has a plan and the plan has stages and phases.

It's like a five paragraph order There's communication involved. There is logistical support involved There's coordination involved all of these things go into the plan and guess what if you want your faith to grow if you want your love to operate you have to have a plan and That plan has to be conditioned on salvation has to be protected by guarded by defined by contained within salvation This is one place where you don't think outside the box The box is the helmet of the hope of salvation we think inside the box we think inside God's box Maybe that'll help us remember it as Helmet the Expectation of deliverance the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back So what kind of plans and priorities and values and goals do you want to establish and pursue? It's all in that light. It is defined and conditioned and enveloped in that Hope God did not set us in place did not position us for Wrath Tribulation the righteous judgment of God who will rendered every man according to his deeds but to enter into the security and the benefits of Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us Who paid the ultimate price greater love hath no man? Than to lay down his life so that whether we wake or sleep We should live together with him Isn't interesting that if this was only talking about life and death and you say well, what about the sleep part? Who died for us that whether we wake or sleep we should live together with him.

This goes back to John chapter 11. I Am the resurrection in the life Say this with me. I am the resurrection in the life.

He that believeth in me though He were dead yet. Shall he live and The one who lives and believes in me shall never die. Believe us thou this Is this your hope of salvation? Is this part of your faith? It changes the way we live changes the way we die We are at peace with death.

We have nothing to fear from death It is a momentary closing of the eyes Only to open them and see the Lord Jesus descending from heaven with a shout voice of the Archangel and the Trump of God It's it's not death at all in the traditional sense. The one who lives and believes in me will never die It's never just momentarily falling asleep. You miss like one word May be happening now.

That's all death is you really it's really not death at all Whether we wake or sleep we should live together with him notice Even if we're awake we live together with him our Daily experience our walk of faith and hope and love is with him two or three gathered in his aim There he is in the midst have his words and keep them Love him I and my father will come and make our home the Lord Jesus Christ is present With him whether we wake or sleep. We'll either be with him in Prospect and through the word and through the presence of the Holy Spirit and through the indwelling of the Father and the Son or when we Sleep that momentary blink. Here's the Lord Jesus coming and we're transformed and we are ever with the Lord therefore comfort one another and edify one another now The word comfort is really interesting.

What is the Holy Spirit's Greek Designation what's one of his titles in Greek that we know Jesus said I'm going away, but I will send you another Comforter you remember the word for comforter the paraclete para cleat para Kaleo Kaleo to call para alongside and this is the well-known title of the Holy Spirit he is the the comforter Well, that is the word here this is a present active imperative Now an aorist imperative means start doing a thing you use the aorist imperative when the troops are standing there and you say forward March That's an aorist imperative start doing something. You're not doing present imperative means Carry on keep on doing what you're doing This is a present imperative from para Kaleo And what it is a reminder of is you know how the Holy Spirit does much of his comfort Through the observance of the one another commands God the Holy Spirit Does his comforting? Personally and individually in our souls He also does it in and through the gifts that he distributes to each one of us for the building up of the body of Christ for ministry and when he says comfort each other this is implicitly talking about the Beneficial ministry in and through believers to one another from the Holy Spirit Romans 5 5 the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by God the Holy Spirit Love is Applied love is manifested by the Holy Spirit. This is that you know there's such a misunderstanding of the role and the and the purpose and the functions of the Holy Spirit in your in your Charismatic and Pentecostal and Holy roller circles well if the Holy Spirit's gonna be here.

I'm gonna Yabber-jabber, I'm gonna roll on the floor. I'm gonna have hysterical laughter. I'm gonna speak in tongues or somebody's going to get healed. I'm gonna smack someone and their headaches gonna go away allegedly.

Not at all. This is the actual biblical function of God's Holy Spirit para Kala.

Oh, and In the light of these truths, We can be an agent of the Holy Spirit for ministry, for comfort, comfort each other and edify each other. This is Oiko Domeo. You know what Oikos is? That's a house, and Oiko Domeo has the idea of build the house, build up one another.

You notice, and even in English here, just as in Greek, there's a difference. It says comfort each other and edify one another, and This may just be stylistic variation, but it has a little bit of a connotation. Comfort each other. Comfort is often more of a one-on-one operation. One or two people. You can talk with. Someone is bereaved, a couple has lost a loved one. And this is sort of

a very small intimate group, each other comforting each other. This is a very specific and somewhat more limited, and then edify one another. This is Two Two versions of the of the word one in Greek. So I lay loose is the first one, comfort. Each other. This is this one's comforting you and you're comforting right back.

There's a reciprocity implied there I lay loose it's In fact in in biology you have the word allele alleles come from this I'll a lay loan and then the second one edify haste on Haina and Haste Mia and hen are all three different ways of saying the number one in Greek When you when you go to the passage it says one Lord one faith one baptism Depending on if it's masculine feminine or neuter you have haste you have Mia and you have hen they're all Different ways of saying that the number one well here you have haste on Haina so edify oiko de meo One to one one on one build build one up one builds one up This is sort of one-on-one Upbuilding edification. What does this imply? Why why this intimate language? This isn't talking about me standing up and trying to edify the group This isn't you going out and putting a blog on the internet and saying I have just comforted the entire blogosphere This is done by contact this is conversation this is Face to face. I'm talking to you.

You're talking to me and God the Holy Spirit is in the midst and your words provide me comfort my words provide you comfort your words edify My words edify we speak the truth to one another in love. It is a very Familial close-knit one-on-one pros face to face with type of operation So the each other and the one another Doesn't really catch the the intimacy idea here. This is people in very small Numbers one talking to one a few talking to a few others.

This is fellowship of a personal and Knowing kind I can't necessarily edify when they say Hi there. I'm in TaiTai, Georgia and Uncle Bob's got a tumor behind his left ear. Could you please pray for him? I? Can't edify and comfort at that distance if Uncle Bob is in our church, and I know him and he knows me now We have a basis for fellowship for edification and for comfort Comfort each other reciprocity Edify one the one one is edifying one Just as you also are doing close-knit group now Think about the first chapter of 1st Corinthians in this light when Paul says I hear there are wars and Divisions among you and it shouldn't be that way.

I am of Paul. I am of a polis. I am of Cephas.

I am of Christ Isn't that the antithesis and the exact opposite of this obviously it is So There is great security in our salvation There is great hope and opportunity in our salvation. It has a forward-looking aspect We look ahead to the coming and the return of the Lord Jesus and in that light We can do things in the present our hope and our understanding of prophecy informs and changes the way we walk right now what I am doing now the way I treat my fellow believers now the Opportunities that I look for the opportunities that I make time for in my day for my meditation and my prayer time with God and my fellowship and my contact with believers How are you going to fulfill these commands if you don't have time together how can you do comfort and edification if you're not rubbing elbows with and Spending time in fellowship with other believers many times. This is just our family if you're married got a built-in Sacrifice partner right there.

You can just turn your head and talk. You've got comfort and encouragement right there parents and children children and parents siblings extended family Coworkers, but there needs to be Fellowship we are not the lone wolf Boy Scouts with no pack and no troop And I'm just getting it

out of a book and I'm gonna go tie a knot and write off a letter to see if I can Get a badge. We don't do that.

We are a body we are Interrelated we are brethren and these so many of these imperatives require proximity in Christian fellowship and If it doesn't seem to be immediately available, well, there's a prayer opportunity there's a there's an avenue something to work on because you're going to be stunted and you're going to be limited without brethren by whatever means so he goes on to say in verse 12 and you can and the reason I'm Emphasizing this so much is look at these upcoming imperatives This is the foundation what he has just said in the light of the grand design in the light of the work of Christ in The light of our coming salvation and meeting the Lord in the air. What should you do? comfort and edify one another and we urge you brethren verse 12 to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and Admonish you and to esteem them very highly in love for their works sake Be at peace among yourselves There's nothing like somebody having authority to create Conflict and this is not just saying go find a pastor and wait for him to tell you what to do and slavishly You know that that isn't what it's saying at all We urge you first of all this is This is the same word we get Hortatory from or exhortation the HORT part of exhort or a Hortatory subjunctive, you know, let us do a thing may we do a thing comes from this erotica verb and it has the idea of Originally, it almost had the idea of inquiring into a thing to ask I Ask you, you know friends Romans countrymen lend me your ears. I ask you to pay attention It is a a request idea, but this is a request Kind of like, you know, may I conclude? Well, I'm gonna conclude but I'm it's sort of a you know Rhetorical question so we we urge you in the sense of we plead with you we ask you we This is a very strong form of request Brethren and once again, you're still in the church.

This is in the body of Christ to recognize and This is just your word Oida to know this means to Have knowledge of and It's a perfect Infinitive this means you figured this out sometime in the past, you know what a perfect is right perfect tense I go today. I went yesterday. I have gone in the past have gone.

That's your perfect. It happened back when I Have believed in Christ 50 odd years ago, right? This is the perfect infinitive We urge you brethren To have known to have Knowledge of To and and this should already be you should already be aware of those who labor among you and Labor is Is a word that is used for working in the fields. It's used for bringing in the harvest this is The very first thing that came to man after the fall we work for our bread by the sweat of our brow Copia oh as a verb is related to Kapos, which is a noun and Kapos originally meant a beating and You know that this this is hard work.

This is work that that costs you something Exertion Or trouble is wrapped up in this word and there are those who go to some trouble who? Make some sort of sacrifice on your behalf who work among you Has the idea of some sacrifice or some inconvenience and Are over you and this is Pro histamine histamine means to stand and pro means before I'm not Real happy with this over you in the Lord who stand before you in the Lord. I think is better pros histamine is the idea and There is some confusion Which I've addressed in times past but notice it says who stand before you or over you depending on how you want to take this In the Lord this means when it comes to Church or it's time for Bible class and if I am up here before you and I am speaking God's Word then That is a time when you would know That it's time for me to talk and it there it should be done decently in good order and so on, right? This doesn't mean that when Bible class is over and you're at your job I have any kind of authority or you're in your home

that I have any authority pastors have authority Commensurate with their responsibility there is their responsibility is to preach and teach the word and they have authority Commensurate with that job They do not have authority to tell you how to live your life Tell you how to run your house tell you how to run your job Tell you how much money you should give to the church or anything else. They have authority to prepare and present the truth of God's Word and that's it and they are not here to You know, this is how cults get started is when people say well this guy I'm gonna do whatever he says.

It's nuts It's not in the Bible Before you in the Lord labor among you in the Lord notice it It doesn't say labor over you or crack a whip while you labor right Labor among you and stand before you in the Lord you should know who those people are and Admonish you Well now, where does this admonition come from? All scripture is Inspired by God and is profitable for it doesn't say every pastor is inspired by God and is profitable for Doctrine rebuke correction and instruction does it? Pastor has no authority to rebuke or instruct or correct except as it directly affects the Time of fellowship and the presentation of God's Word. This admonishing is nothing more than accurately Presenting the Word of God the Word of God is Capable and powerful and Profitable for rebuke and correction. It is not my job Don't ever think it is certainly never my intention and shouldn't be any Pastors or teachers intention to look out there and say, you know, I don't think you're doing quite right Let me correct you.

Let me rebuke you not my job. I don't want that job I don't want that responsibility and I don't want that accountability because if that was my job and you run off into the weeds anyway Then God's would call me on the carpet and say well Sam Why didn't you do a little more rebuking and correcting? Look how wild and woolly this person got what were you thinking? What were you doing? I don't want that responsibility I have my hands full trying to keep myself off the yellow footprints in front of God's desk So I know I'm not I'm not I'm not qualified. I'm not interested.

I'm not have no enthusiasm Don't don't falsely put anybody in that position. Not a guy on the radio Not a dead guy who wrote a book not somebody on a tape We are our own priests your relationship with God does not go through me. I am the I Am the Lance corporal in the galley slinging the hash putting it on a plate Shoving it over to you for you to take and digest you are accountable to the CEO not me I am just dishing up the chow.

That's my job and I Have authority in the mess hall. I have authority on the mess decks. I can say stand in line and wait your turn and That's it.

I don't tell you what to do when you leave the mess hall and go to your place in the ship You're up in the folks. Oh, you're down in the boiler room. You're up in the radio room.

You're in Radar, whatever you might be doing. You're you're a deck Guy, I'm not my job not to oversee to pay any attention. Did you chip that paint? Well, did you shine that brass? Well, not my job I Am tasked my job and you can hold me as accountable for my job My job is to prepare and present if the food is not nutritious if you're not getting anything out of it You can't do your work because you're starving need to find it find a different cook find a better mess deck so We urge you brethren to know who it is.

That is laboring in your midst and who is standing before you in the Lord and Is doing this admonition and this is Nutheteo and this is the last word we're going to have time to look at

tonight but Nutheteo is It doesn't mean this is not ginosco. This is to counsel or advise someone about avoiding or ceasing improper conduct This is your doctor saying you've got to cut out the fried foods This is your Your coach saying you got to quit running with your elbows flying out to your sides You know, you got to quit bouncing your center of gravity a foot and a half with every step You got to level out your stride. This is someone Admonishing counseling coaching about what you're doing wrong.

This this is what you need to fix to do better That's what Nutheteo is Notice this is not the overseer with a whip or a rod this is Advice this is counsel. This is coaching. This is I observe that your stride is bad, I observe that your swing is Starting wrong and timed wrong and your grip is wrong Here's here's what you need to do to fix that so that you can drive the ball and keep it on the fairway Nutheteo and esteem them very highly in love not because they are wonderful people not because they have a personality and You know charisma and good looks and all that.

Why should they be esteemed very highly in In love it is for their works sake We had a guy when we were plebes named Heinz lens who ran the pep the plebe Something or other program I forget what it was physical education program PEP pep for plebes Get you up early in the morning run you up and down the astroturf make you do sit-ups and all kinds of other stuff and Heinz lens, I have no idea what kind of guy he was in person I didn't know him, but I esteemed him and appreciated him because he took the raw civilian lumpiness that Arrived and turned it into lean mean blue twisted steel by the end of the summer. He did that He gave us our physical training. He coached us.

He told us what we were doing wrong. He had helpers going around Smacking us when we didn't do the right thing and making us run, you know again again the sprint You know this on the other he's and we esteem him and love him for his work sake I have no idea. What kind of guy he was Never went to his house never had a private conversation with him, but I esteemed him for his work sake still do This is the attitude.

You don't have to like you don't have to appreciate you don't have to Have anything other than esteem and love in the sense of love one another Appreciate pray for and so on and The bottom line be at peace among yourselves if these things are followed there will not be disharmony There will not be backbiting. There will not be rancorous griping and complaining. There will not be talking behind people's back there will not be criticism and the building up of unhealthy Festering Issues and grudges and problems be at peace among yourselves and this is different remember we had a lay loose the one another and we had hen on hen one-on-one up above this is Among yourselves.

This is n. Hey, how to's everyone get when Jesus said the kingdom of God is In the midst of you and Whom in same idea here be at peace I renew Oh Irene a peace This is a verbal peace make peace have peace make peace happen. This is the verbal peace It doesn't say possess peace as a noun. This is peace as a verb Peace if I pacify among yourselves one of your active expressions of love one of your expressions of hope one of your out workings of faith is peacifying pacifying making peace having peace producing peace in Your midst among yourselves Well that brings us to verse 14, which would be a great place for us to start next Friday We'll close here in a word of prayer Father thank you for the truth of your word Thank you for how clearly and profoundly

you have spelled out for us exactly what you expect exactly what you have provided Exactly how we should live and move and have our being in Christ.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will Constantly impress these things on us exhort us and encourage us Illuminate our path so that we are without excuse. We will have every opportunity and every Every Perception necessary to live and to walk and to Execute your plan and purpose in a way that is pleasing in your sight and that glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ We pray these things in his name. Amen