

**Study Questions for the August 15, 2021 Sermon:
“A Final Blessing”
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**

1. In Verse 12, the Thessalonians are directed to respect those who “are over you in the Lord?.” At NWB, that would refer to the Pastor and Deacons. What does “respect” look like? We probably agree it does not mean unconditional obedience. But what does it mean in terms of interactions between the leaders and the congregation? Come up with at least 3 guidelines (not firm rules) for communicating with church leaders.
2. Verse 12 also directs the Thessalonians to respect “those who labor among you”, which would include the Facilities Team, Leadership Team, Sunday School, VBS, and Youth Group leaders, those who provide food or church functions, and executive assistants. Lets say you have an idea for improving one of those functions, or there is something going on regarding which a corrective action is needed. How do we communicate the idea or problem while still remaining respectful and appreciative?
3. We are directed in verse 13 to “be at peace among yourselves.” Most of us are familiar with the Biblical directives for resolving offenses. But are there things we can do to minimize the occurrence of offenses? i.e. Are there actions and conversations that instill an atmosphere of peace in the congregation?
4. Verse 14 includes four commands. BRIEFLY share a story of a time you endeavored to do these, and whether or not, in retrospect, you believe your initiative succeed.
 - a. Admonish the idle. (Yikes!)
 - b. Encourage the fainthearted.
 - c. Help the weak.
 - d. Be patient with them all.
5. Verse 15 includes one of many commands in the Bible to not return evil for evil.
 - a. State an Old Testament verse that states the same thing.
 - b. State a New Testament verse that states the same thing.
6. Verse 18 includes “... give thanks in all circumstances.” If you have given thanks while in adversity, or been inspired by someone else doing this, please share the story.

7. In Verse 23, Paul prays that our “whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless”. What do you understand our spirit, soul, and body to be?