I THESSALONIANS
Part Fifty Four: Parting Words

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 - PAUL CLOSES HIS LETTER

AN EDIFYING "GOODBYE"

Saying “goodbye” to people we love can be one of the most painful elements of life. Every Spirit-filled believer wants to send people off stronger than they were when we said “hello.” Paul shows us some elements of a blessed “goodbye.”

1) A CLOSING PRAYER. 5:23 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 Jesus Christ.

Saying goodbye with prayer keeps God at the center of your friendship.

2) A CLOSING PROMISE. 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Sharing a promise of God gives hope for the future.

3) A CLOSING REQUEST. 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

Asking your friends to pray for you reminds them that you need them.

4) A CLOSING CHALLENGE. 5:26 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.

You strengthen fellowship by passing along greetings and words of encouragement.

5) A CLOSING BLESSING. 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Parting words such as “God bless you” remind your friend of your heart and of God’s heart toward them.

He who is most pure in heart shall hereafter enjoy the clearest vision of God.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD