



## 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