

1 Thessalonians 5 - The Waiting Room – part 12

I Thessalonians 5:19-20—We are pursuing the answers to the question of “what do we do while we wait and we began”-- adding what **not** to do—don’t despise prophecy or prophetic utterances because that quenches the Holy Spirit.

--Prophetic utterances are the same as preaching, teaching, and admonishing God’s people from His word.

--The charge of any would-be teacher or preacher of God’s Word is a strict one:

II Timothy 2:15; James 3:1; I Peter 4:11.

II Timothy 4:1-4 – If there is a way to state this more sternly, I don’t know what it is!

--Never in the history of the church have we had such a great potential of gathering around us teachers who say what we want to hear.

--Never has the despising of prophesy been more epidemic since we have so many alternatives to submitting ourselves faithfully to the teaching and preaching of the Local body.

--I’m not saying that we can’t listen to good bible preaching and teaching from other sources.

--It is wrong and you are quenching the Spirit in your life when you do this to the neglect of the local body.

--If some of your body parts took a vacation from the rest of your body, would that cause you any problems?

--What good is a hand by itself? What good is a mouth without a hand to feed it? We were never meant to exist in isolation.

I think there are probably many ways we can quench the Holy Spirit in our lives, but the single time this is spoken of in the New Testament is in reference to despising or treating prophetic utterances with contempt.

--Why is this? Why does He uniquely point out our not listening or submitting to the teaching and preaching within the church as being this quenching?

--It is because God hangs so much on His spoken word: Everything comes into existence by His spoken Word; “The Word” is a title for Jesus.

--His spoken word is the way that God chooses to communicate to the world: He has sent angels at times but they were relatively rare occurrences, and usually they appear to only one or a few people.

--**Romans 10:14** – it doesn’t say, “if not, the angels will come and tell them; a banner will be hung in the sky spelling out God’s message; God, Himself, will thunder from Heaven”, etc.

--**Luke 16:30-31** – No miracle can do what His word can do. The pinnacle of God’s power impacts our lives through **what He has said.**

How did you come to Christ? Some preacher got my attention. God saved me through someone faithfully telling me **what God has said.**

--**I Corinthians 1:17-25** – Tip of the spear of God’s work is His message taught and preached.

--Are you despising that by neglecting to attend, to listen, to expect God to work through what He has promised would change lives?

Is it making more sense why He puts so much emphasis on not despising the teaching and preaching of His word?

--Again, it is for the local church; there is nothing that supports our searching of the internet for a word from God about our current situation especially if it is to the neglect of the local church.

--The word for local believers will come from the local church.

--“Well, I will just sit at home and watch it, then.” That’s not church! There is not provision for this in the New Testament.

--Understand, some have no choice and are limited in their ability to come, and, certainly, there is provision for that.

--There is a big difference between "Can't come" and "will not come."

Again, this is not entertainment. This, if it is done right (and we are to be the judge of that), is the presentation of the mind of God specifically for the local church.

--Because we want to be entertained we can make some tremendous errors: **II Corinthians 10:10** – Wow, talk about missing God and His work in their life!

When I was growing up, we ate at the dinner table because that was important for our family, we didn't eat whatever we wanted and we didn't eat wherever we wanted.

--"I'm going to eat something else." To which my parents would have responded: "You'll eat what we have or you'll not eat at all."

--"I'm just going to eat in my room and not at the dinner table." This would have never been okay in my house because its just not family.

--It's not just about what you eat but also where you eat it.

--Our coming together is far more than the contents of my sermons or words and sounds of our music program.

What I have for you this morning is the equivalent of 5 loaves and 2 fish—it's mediocre but its all I've got or ever will have; if we are dependent on what I bring, we are done for.

--I've lost count of the times that I thought sermon was no good only to have someone say how much it meant to them.

--Words fall short; but what God does for us when we obediently come together and seek Him together—there is not a substitute for this.