

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

I THESS. 5:25-28

Introduction:

- A. We should appreciate instructions.
  - 1. Especially when they help us to understand the work of God.
- b. We usually read the "final instructions" with added interest.
  - 1. Two parts of the letter.
    - a. First.
    - b. Last.

I. "BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US" V25

- A. Paul was a praying man.
  - 1. He assures these of his prayers. 1:2
  - 2. He prayed for saved and lost.
  - 3. He prayed for men and for the church.
- B. He wanted others to pray for him.
  - 1. "be praying for us."
  - 2. Why?
    - a. It helps!
    - b. It keeps us from forgetting.
    - c. It begets forgiveness.
    - d. It sets a right example.

II. GREET ALL THE BRETHREN WITH AN HOLY KISS. V26

- A. greet = to greet, to bid welcome.
  - 1. all = everyone in the congregation.
  - 2. "with an holy kiss."
  - 3. The sexes were segregated in the East, men greeted the men, women the women.
  - 4. Was abandoned early in history.

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B. What does it teach us?

1. Greeting between Christians should be exchanged by and to ALL.
2. Greetings should be HOLY.
3. I like Bro. and Sis. very well as terms.
  - a. Hi, stupid! ; Hi, sweetheart!

III. "READ THIS LETTER" V27

A. "I charge" = to put under an oath.

Paul puts them under oath to read this to all.

1. This was their first letter. He wanted to establish a precedent.
2. The contents were important.
3. He wanted all to be comforted.
4. He did not want any of the truths to be suppressed.

iv. "THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALL" V28

A. Grace = is a typical way for Paul to close an epistle.