

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are captured in motion, walking across the stripes. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the pavement, indicating bright, direct sunlight. The people are dressed in casual summer attire. One person in the upper right is looking at a phone, another in the center is carrying a bag, and one in the lower right is holding a blue umbrella. The overall scene is busy and captures a moment of everyday urban life.

# LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with How We Relate to One Another”  
Part V**

**I THESSALONIANS 5:19-21**

- a. Paul considered Luke's writings to be as authoritative as the O.T. (I Tim 5:18).
- b. Peter recognized Paul's writings as Scripture (II Pet 3:15-16).
- c. Some letters were being circulated among the churches (Col 4:16; I Thess 5:27).
- d. Clement of Rome (A.D. 35-99) mentioned 8 N.T. books.
- e. Ignatius of Antioch (died A.D. 110) acknowledged 7 N.T. books.

**In the Early Church...**

- f. Polycarp (A.D. 69-155), a disciple of John the apostle, acknowledged 15 N.T. books.
- g. Irenaeus (A.D. 130-202) mentioned 21 N.T. books.
- h. Hippolytus (A.D. 170-235) recognized 22 N.T. books (A.D. 170-235).

**In the Early Church...**

1. Was the author an apostle or have a close connection with an apostle?
2. Was the book accepted by the body of Christ at large?
3. Did the book contain consistency of doctrine and orthodox teaching?
4. Did the book bear evidence of high moral and spiritual values that would reflect a work of the Holy Spirit?

## **Examples of Questions Asked for Canonization**

- a. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
- b. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)
- c. On the Reality of Future Events (4:13-18)
- d. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

## **Ways We Please God**

## **e. On How We Relate to One Another (12-22)**

1. On How We Recognize Leaders (5:12-13)
2. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
3. On Nonretaliation (5:15)
4. On Rejoicing (5:16)
5. On Regular Prayer (5:17)
6. On Gratitude (5:18)
- 7. On Testing the Spirits (5:19-21)**
8. On Responding to Evil (5:22)

**Ways We Please God**

## KEY POINT:

**We please God by authenticating God's  
Word and remaining committed to it.**



# I. **Our Problem with God's Word (vs. 19-20)**

## A. Quenching the Holy Spirit (vs. 19)

<b>The Holy Spirit's Ministry</b>	<b>Scriptures</b>
Conviction	John 16:7-11
Drawing us to salvation	John 3:3-8
Sealing our salvation	Ephesians 1:13-14
Baptizing	John 1:33; Acts 1:4-5
Indwelling	John 14:16-17, 20, 23
Comforting	John 14:16-19, 27; 16:7
Filling	Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:18
Illumination	John 14:25-26
Guidance	John 16:12-15
Sanctification	Romans 15:14-21

*But they rebelled  
and grieved his Holy Spirit;  
therefore he turned to be their enemy,  
and himself fought against them.*

**Isaiah 63:10**

*“You stiff-necked people,  
uncircumcised in heart and ears,  
you always resist the Holy Spirit.  
As your fathers did, so do you.”*

**Acts 7:51**

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,  
by whom you were sealed for the day of  
redemption.*

**Ephesians 4:30**

- From a Greek word meaning “to put out a fire, to suppress, to stifle”
- Used in Mark 9:48 and Ephesians 6:16
- The Holy Spirit likened to a flame or fire (e.g., the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2) – symbolizing purity and power

**The Word “*Quench*”**

*And do not get drunk with wine, f  
or that is debauchery,  
but be filled with the Spirit,*

**Ephesians 5:18**

<b>The Holy Spirit's Ministry</b>	<b>Scriptures</b>	<b>How to Quench the Spirit's Ministry</b>
Conviction	John 16:7-11	By hardening our hearts
Drawing us to salvation	John 3:3-8	By rejecting Christ
Sealing our salvation	Ephesians 1:13-14	By rejecting Christ
Comforting	John 14:16-19, 27; 16:7	By looking to the world's comforts



<b>The Holy Spirit's Ministry</b>	<b>Scriptures</b>	<b>How to Quench the Spirit's Ministry</b>
Filling	Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:18	By living out of control (e.g., drunkenness)
Illumination	John 14:25-26	<u>By refusing to accept God's Word</u>
Guidance	John 16:12-15	<u>By refusing to accept God's will</u>
Sanctification	Romans 15:14-21	By living unrighteously

# I. **Our Problem with God's Word (vs. 19-20)**

A. Quenching the Holy Spirit (vs. 19)

B. Despising God's Revelation (vs. 20)

- Refers to either forthtelling (Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-11) or preaching (Acts 13:2; 15:23-29)
- Not all preaching is predicting but all predicting is preaching.
- Apostles and prophets were still speaking prophetically.
- Prophets – the genuine ones – spoke for God.

## **The Word “*Prophecy*”**

*<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets,  
the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,  
<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ,*

**Ephesians 4:11-12**

*Love never ends. As for prophecies,  
they will pass away; as for tongues,  
they will cease; as for knowledge,  
it will pass away.*

**I Corinthians 13:8**

- Means “to consider as nothing, to treat with contempt, to look down on, to mock, to neglect”
- Used to describe how Jews thought of the tax collectors (Luke 18:9)

**The Word “*Despise*”**

- a. Because it is authoritative (Isa 1:2)
- b. Because it is infallible (Ps 19:7)
- c. Because it is inerrant (Prov 30:5-6; Matt 5:18)
- d. Because it is sufficient (Ps 19:7-11; II Tim 3:15-17)
- e. Because it is effective (Isa 55:11)

**What Makes the Word Un-Despisable?**

- f. Because it is superior (Matt 4:4; II Pet 1:20-21; Rev 1:3)
- g. Because it is determinative (John 5:24)
- h. Because it is beneficial: truth (John 17:17),  
happiness (Prov 8:34; Luke 11:28),  
victorious (Ps 119:9, 11; Matt 4:1-11; Eph 6:17),  
spiritual growth (Ps 19:8; 119:105), hopeful (Ps 119:116;  
Rom 15:4)

**What Makes the Word Un-Despisable?**



# **I. Our Problem with God's Word (vs. 19-20)**

A. Quenching the Holy Spirit (vs. 19)

B. Despising God's Revelation (vs. 20)

# **II. Our Priority with God's Word (vs. 21)**

A. Authenticating Truth (vs. 21a)

## **KEY POINT:**

**We please God by authenticating God's  
Word and remaining committed to it.**

- From a Greek word meaning “to prove as authentic”, “to think fit”
- Used for testing and approving the results of the test

**The Word “*Test*”**

- False teachers were everywhere (Matt 7:15; 24:11; Jude 4).
- Erroneous and corrupt teachers sound good (II Cor 11:13-14).
- More false teachers as we near Jesus' return (II Tim 4:3-6; II Pet 2:1; I John 4:1).

## **False Teachers in the N.T.**

*Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

**Acts 17:11**

*The simple believes everything,  
but the prudent gives thought to his steps.*

**Proverbs 14:15**

*so that we may no longer be children,  
tossed to and fro by the waves and carried  
about by every wind of doctrine,  
by human cunning,  
by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*

**Ephesians 4:14**

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit,  
but test the spirits to see whether they are from  
God, for many false prophets have gone out into  
the world.*

**I John 4:1**



“Doctrines of truth will be true when they are tried. Truth fears no trial; it is error that fears the light that creeps into houses and dares not appear in public.”



**Christopher Love**

# **I. Our Problem with God's Word (vs. 19-20)**

A. Quenching the Holy Spirit (vs. 19)

B. Despising God's Revelation (vs. 20)

# **II. Our Priority with God's Word (vs. 21)**

A. Authenticating Truth (vs. 21a)

B. Possessing Truth (vs. 21b)

## **KEY POINT:**

**We please God by authenticating God's  
Word and remaining committed to it.**

*Buy truth, and do not sell it;  
buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.*

**Proverbs 23:23**

CHRISTIAN & FAITHFUL Pass Through VANITY FAIR



- Buy only the truth.
- Buy the truth at any price.
- Buy all the truth.

**What Does It Mean to Buy the Truth?**

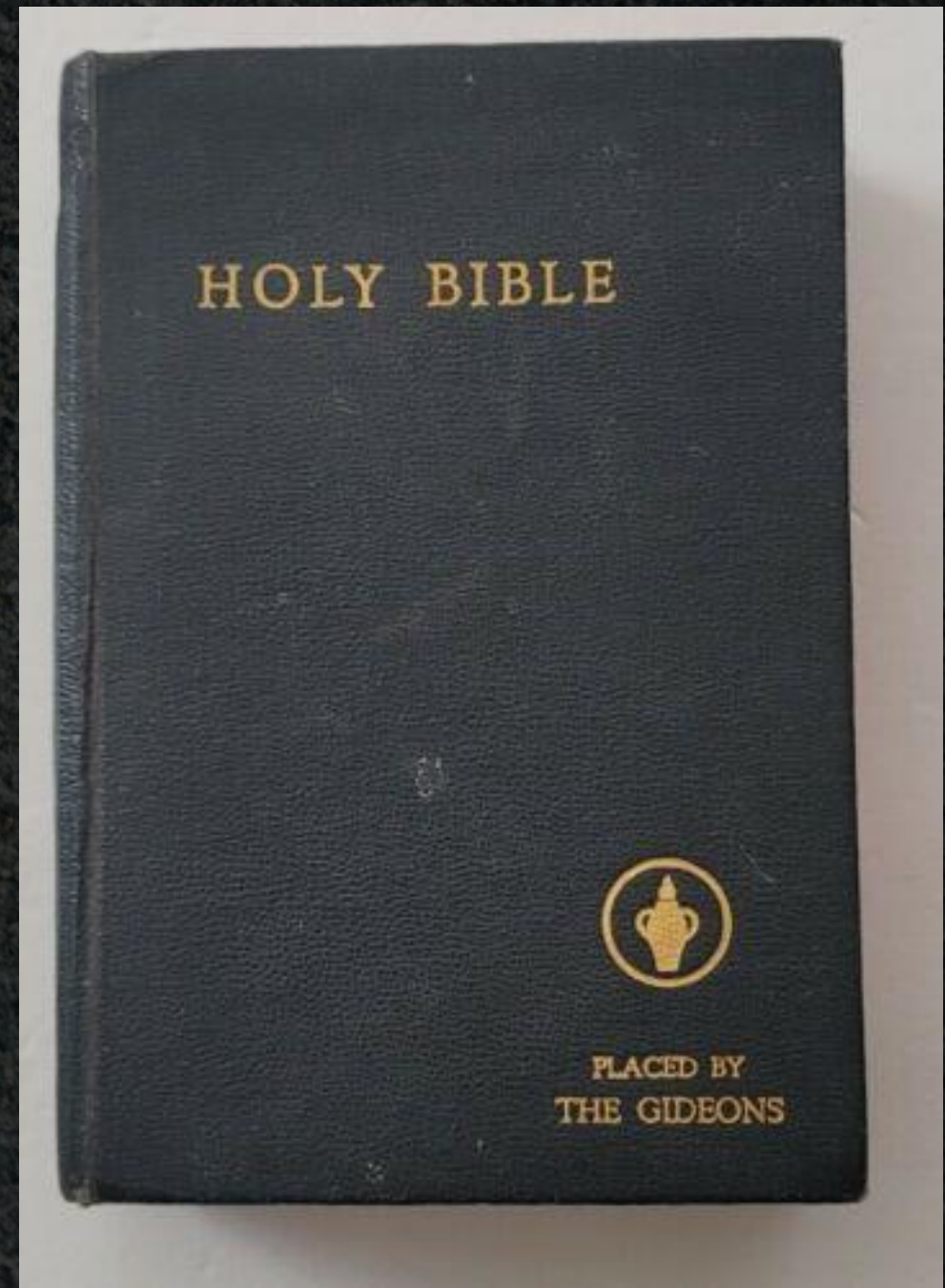
## **KEY POINT:**

**We please God by authenticating God's Word and remaining committed to it.**

“The Bible contains: the mind of God,  
the state of man,  
the way of salvation, the doom of  
sinners, and the happiness of  
believers.

Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are  
binding, its histories are true,  
and its decisions are immutable.  
Read it to be wise, believe it to be  
safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you,  
food to support you, and comfort to  
cheer you. It is the traveler’s map,  
the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s  
compass, the soldier’s sword, and the  
Christian charter...”





“...Here heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the Judgment, and is established forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its contents.”

