

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a paved road. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing, and their long shadows are cast onto the pavement. The shadows are cast towards the bottom right of the frame, indicating a low sun position. The pedestrians 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 brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

“5 Final Words”

I THESSALONIANS 5:23-28

- Greetings to fellow Christians (Rom 16:1-13; I Cor 16:19-20; Col 4:7-18; II Tim 4:19-21; Phile 23-24)
- Benedictions (Rom 16:25-27; I Cor 16:13-18, 21-24; II Cor 13:11-14; Gal 6:18; Eph 6:21-24; Phil 4:21-23; II Thess 3:16-18; II Tim 4:22; Tit 3:14; Phile 25)
- Pleas for monies for ministry (I Cor 16:1-4)
- Announcing plans for future travel (I Cor 16:5-12; Tit 3:12-13)
- Final warnings or exhortations (II Cor 13:1-10; Gal 6:11-17; I Tim 6:11-21; II Tim 4:9-18)

Common Features of N.T. Letter Endings

*¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

II Timothy 3:16-17

- A. The Profile of a Godly Church (Chapter 1)
 - 1. Working Out Their Faith (vs. 3a)
 - 2. Serving Others (vs. 3b)
 - 3. Persevering in Hope (vs. 3c)
 - 4. Elected by God (vs. 4)
 - 5. Receiving the Word (vs. 5)
 - 6. Making Disciples (vs. 6a, 7)
 - 7. Willingness to Suffer (vs. 6b)
 - 8. Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit (vs. 6c)
 - 9. Impacting Their Community (vs. 8-9)
 - 10. Expecting the Lord's Return (vs. 10)

The Connection Between Paul and the Thessalonians (Chapters 1-3)

B. The Profile of a Godly Pastor (Chapter 3)

1. Purposeful (vs. 1-2)
2. Truthful (vs. 3)
3. Accountable (vs. 4)
4. Honorable (vs. 5)
5. Humble (vs. 6)
6. Maternal (vs. 7-8)
7. Mindful (vs. 9)
8. Paternal (vs. 10-12)
9. Faithful (vs. 13)
10. Amenable (vs. 14-16)
11. Wistful (vs. 17-18)
12. Joyful (vs. 19-20)

The Connection Between Paul and the Thessalonians (Chapters 1-3)

C. The Persecuted Thessalonian Church (Chapter 3)

**The Connection Between Paul and the
Thessalonians (Chapters 1-3)**

- A. Aiming to Please the Lord (4:1-2)
- B. How to Please the Lord (4:3-5:22)
 - 1. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
 - 2. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)
 - 3. On the Reality of Future Events (4:13-17)
 - 4. On Encouragement (4:18)
 - 5. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
 - 6. On Recognizing Leaders (5:12-13)

The Instruction Paul Gives to the Thessalonians (Chapters 4-5)

7. On How We Relate to One Another (12-22)
 - a. On How We Recognize Leaders (5:12-13)
 - b. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
 - c. On Nonretaliation (5:15)
 - d. On Rejoicing (5:16)
 - e. On Regular Prayer (5:17)
 - f. On Gratitude (5:18)
 - g. On Testing the Spirits (5:19-21)
 - h. On Responding to Evil (5:22)

The Instruction Paul Gives to the Thessalonians (Chapters 4-5)

C. Ending the Letter (5:23-28)

**The Instruction Paul Gives to the Thessalonians
(Chapters 4-5)**

A. The Desire for Personal Holiness

Paul's Prayer for their Holiness (vs. 23-24)

- Meaning “to be set apart,” “to cut away”
- A command (Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26; I Pet 1:16)

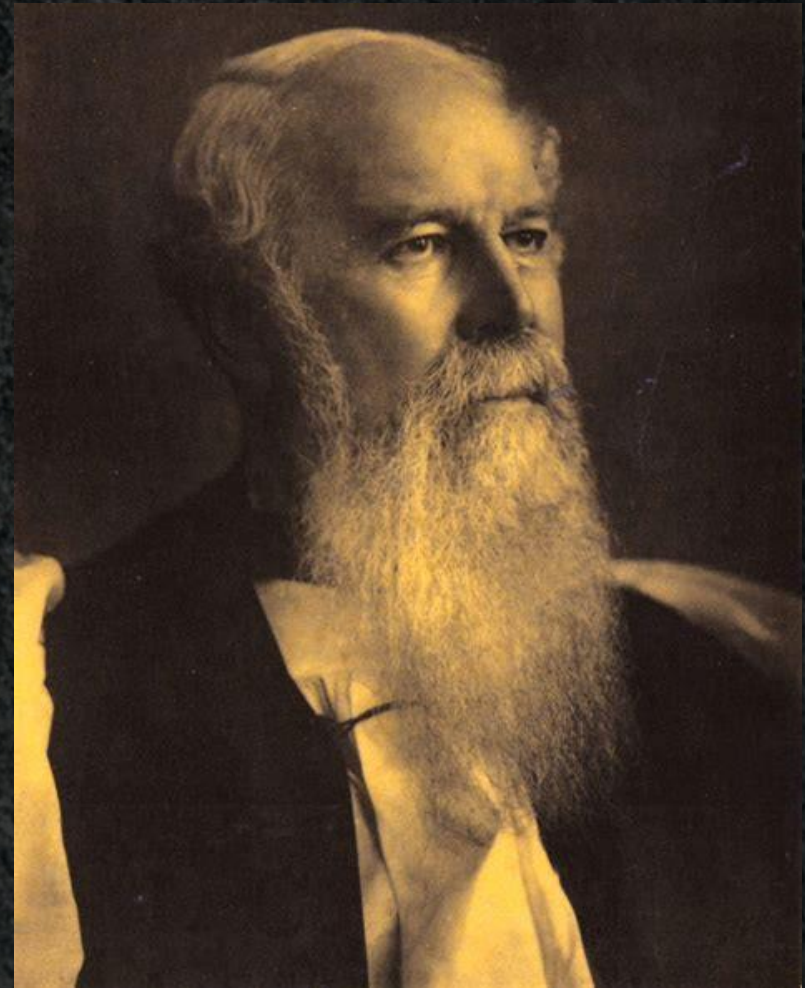
The Word “Holy”

*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:10

“True holiness is a great reality. It is something in a man that can be seen, and known, and marked, and felt by all around him.

It is light: if it exists, it will show itself. It is salt: if it exists, its savor will be perceived. It is a precious ointment: if it exists, its presence cannot be hid.”



J.C. Ryle
Holiness

*Keep my statutes and do them;
I am the LORD who sanctifies you.*

Leviticus 20:8

A. The Desire for Personal Holiness

B. The Realm for Personal Holiness

Paul's Prayer for their Holiness (vs. 23-24)

*Strive for peace with everyone,
and for the holiness without which no one will
see the Lord.*

Hebrews 12:14

*for it is God who works in you,
both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:13

A. The Desire for Personal Holiness

B. The Realm for Personal Holiness

C. The Source of Personal Holiness

Paul's Prayer for their Holiness (vs. 23-24)

*But the Lord is faithful.
He will establish you and guard you against
the evil one.*

II Thessalonians 3:3

*Know therefore that the LORD your God is
God, the faithful God who keeps covenant
and steadfast love with those who love him
and keep his commandments, to a
thousand generations,*

Deuteronomy 7:9

17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:17-20

I. Paul's Prayer for their Holiness (vs. 23-24)

II. Paul's Request for Prayer (vs. 25)

*Obey your leaders and submit to them,
for they are keeping watch over your souls,
as those who will have to give an account.
Let them do this with joy and not with groaning,
for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Hebrews 13:17

- a. To the Romans (15:30; 16:17-19)
- b. To the Corinthians (I Cor 16:13-16, 22; II Cor 1:11; 13:1)
- c. To the Galatians (6:17)
- d. To the Ephesians (6:18-20)
- e. To the Philippians (1:19; 4:8-9)
- f. To the Colossians (4:2-4)

Paul Asking for Prayer

- I. Paul's Prayer for their Holiness (vs. 23-24)**
- II. Paul's Request for Prayer (vs. 25)**
- III. Paul's Exhortation to Mutual Love (vs. 26)**

- 4x in the N.T.
- on the cheek or forehead and expressed friendship and unity with the one you were embracing
- not for romantic love
- phased out of the church by the 13th century

What is the Holy Kiss?

1. We must be warm and affectionate towards one another.
2. We must be motivated by holiness.

Lessons From the Holy Kiss

- I. Paul's Prayer for their Holiness (vs. 23-24)**
- II. Paul's Request for Prayer (vs. 25)**
- III. Paul's Exhortation to Mutual Love (vs. 26)**
- IV. Paul's Charge for Public Reading (vs. 27-28)**