

Brief and to the Point

Act.20:7-11. Paul had much to say and he talked all night. Yet one can say a lot in just a few words. Actually brief, concise, and succinct teachings are very effective.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 takes about one-minute to read (verse 16 contains two words; verse 17 contains three words; verse 22 contains only 6 words).

{14} And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. **{15}** See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men. **{16}** Rejoice always; **{17}** pray without ceasing; **{18}** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **{19}** Do not quench the Spirit; **{20}** do not despise prophetic utterances. **{21}** But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; **{22}** abstain from every form of evil.

BRIEF, CONCISE AND SUCCINCT PASSAGE

:14 OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS BRETHREN

Live in peace (as far as it depends on you). (:13b) Rom.12:18
Admonish unruly. Gal.6:1
Encourage fainthearted (discouraged).
Help weak. Gal.6:2, Rom.15:1
Be patient towards all.

:15 RESPONSE TO ACTIONS OF OTHERS

Don't pay back with evil. Rom.12:19
Revenge is not sweet, it's bittersweet.
Two wrongs don't make one right.
Retaliation only invites tit-for-tat.
Seek others' good. Rom.15:2
"Unto the least of these brethren" Mat.25:40

:16 REJOICE ALWAYS

Phi.4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"
Because we are children of God. 1Jo.3:1
Because we are disciples of Christ. Joh.8:31
Because we are heirs according to the promise. Gal.3:29
Because we have a hope that does not disappoint Heb.6:17-19

:17 PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Regularly, and in special circumstances.
Persevere with a devoted heart and mind. Not doubting. Jam.1:6-7

:18 GIVE THANKS

Prayer to be coupled with thanksgiving. Phi.4:6
Such demonstrates a "grateful heart."

:19 QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT (original application was to miraculous activity)

Today, we must let His Spirit rule in our hearts.
One "throws cold water" on the Spirit by being lukewarm, by formality only,
by being hypocritical, and by being materialistic. Rom.8:6

:20 DO NOT DESPISE PROPHETIC UTTERANCES (teachings from God)

"Hear ye Him" is a must. 1Co.14:37

:21 EXAMINE EVERYTHING CAREFULLY. Cf. Act.17:11

Gain knowledge, exercise judgment.
Test, try teachers and teachings. 1Jo.4:1
Keep the genuine, reject the counterfeit.

:22 HOLD FAST TO GOOD, ABSTAIN FROM EVERY FORM OF EVIL

Don't stop doing good, refrain from doing whatever is evil.

Powerful lessons in just a few words.
We need to judge a message by its content, not by its length.