

1Thess 4:1-5:28 Advancing the Gospel by Discipling: Paul’s focus on transformation

To Disciple is to Instruct and Urge (Encourage)

Instruct for depth of understanding, change of thinking. **Urge and encourage** for life transformation.

*Finally brothers, we **instructed** you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask and **urge** you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what **instructions** we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.* 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

Paul is focused on life transformation: Urge to Godly living

- Holy lives 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- Loving lives 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10
- Productive lives 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Nine times Paul uses “parakaleo/parakletos” to describe the discipling of the Thessalonians:
1 Thess 2:3,12; 3:2,7; 4:1,10,18; 5:11,14

Paul is focused on changing their thinking: Instruct For Depth Of Understanding

Brothers we do not want you to be ignorant... 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10

Paul teaches them the facts of the second coming of Jesus 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Paul roots his teaching in:

- The teaching of Jesus 1 Thess 4:2 1Thess 4:15
- The death and resurrection of Jesus 1 Thess 4:14

All of Paul’s letters, even the most personal, have significant teaching

Discipling is teaching—Jesus taught! (Mark 10:1) Different contexts, Different styles, Life-based,
Don’t confuse “teaching” with a particular method

Point people to the Lord and to one another: Don’t make yourself indispensable!

Paul builds community 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

Paul points them to the Lord 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28