THINGS WORTH HOLDING

I Thess. 5:21
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INTRODUCTION
1. In our text Paul tells us to prove all things and to hold fast that which is good.
2. The word “HOLD” means: To retain; seize on; possess.
3. The word “PROVE” means: To test.
4. The world “GOOD” means: That which is normally honorable and pleasing to God; valuable; honest; worthy; virtuous.

I. WE NEED TO HOLD TO FAITH AS OPPOSED TO UNBELIEF – Heb. 3:12; John 8:34
1. All men do not have FAITH – 2 Thess. 3:2.
2. Some men who once had faith have made shipwreck of it – I Tim. 1:19.
3. Some Deny the faith – I Tim. 5:8.
4. Some cast off their first faith – I Tim. 5:12.
5. Some depart from the faith – I Tim. 4:1.
7. We need to hold fast the form of sound words, in faith – 2 Tim. 1:13.
8. The Word must be mixed with faith – Heb. 4:2.
10. We must have faith to please God – Heb. 11:6.
11. We walk by faith – 2 Cor. 5:7.
12. By faith we have access into God’s grace – Rom. 5:2.

II. WE NEED TO HOLD TO HOLINESS AS OPPOSED TO SIN.
1. Without holiness we cannot see the Lord – Heb. 12:14.
2. We are to be holy in all manner of life – I Pet. 1:15 – 16; 2 Cor. 6:17.
3. We are to abstain from all forms of sin – I Thess. 5:22.
5. Sin will “find us out” – Num. 32:23.
   a. God knows our sin from the time it is committed – Heb. 4:13; Prov. 5:21.
6. Sin will find us out in this life:
   a. Sinners have a hard time concealing their sins from the eyes of men.
   b. Our sins bring us into disgrace in the eyes of men many times.
      i. The sin of adultery – Prov. 32 – 35.
   c. Man is held by the cords of sins – Prov. 5:22; John 8:34.
   d. Man reaps the consequences of his sins in his own body – Rom. 1:27.
7. We will give an account of our sins to God in Judgment – 2 Cor. 5:10; I Tim. 5:24.

III. WE NEED TO HOLD TO THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AS OPPOSED TO DENOMINATIONALISM.
3. Denominationalism makes Christ a contradictory Lord – has men preach contradictory doctrines.
4. Denominationalism makes Christ an incompetent Lord – giving us a book we cannot understand.
5. Denominationalism makes Christ a polygamous Lord with many brides – Eph. 5:23.
7. The saved are added to it – Acts 2:47.
8. The church of the Lord is united upon His word – John 17: 20 – 21; I Cor. 1:10.
9. The church of the New Testament is not denominational in worship, organization, work, attitude or name.
10. We need to hold to the church of the New Testament.

IV. WE NEED TO HOLD THAT THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION, AS OPPOSED TO THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. The direct operation of the Holy Spirit theory is that regeneration of the soul is something which is wrought in us by the Holy Spirit in a manner above our comprehension. It is an instantaneous change from spiritual death to spiritual life. Man is passive in his conversion.
   a. Let us look at this theory:
      i. It makes God responsible for all that are lost.
      ii. If this theory be so, there is no need to preach the gospel – Mk. 16:15 – 16.
      iii. No conversion where the word has not gone – Rom. 10: 13 – 17.

Preached at Underwood Hts. 1980