

*FINAL WORDS TO A BELOVED CHURCH*

*1 Thessalonians 5:25-28*

*2 Thes 3:17 - I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.*

*Gal 6:11 - See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.*

**Four universal, timeless needs...**

**I. ALL BELIEVERS NEED PRAYER**

*25 Brethren, pray for us.*

*2 Cor 1:11 - ... (join) in helping us through your prayers...*

*Rom 15:30–32 - 30 ...strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, 31 that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; 32 so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company.*

*Eph 6:19–20 – 19...pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 ... that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly...*

*Col 4:3–4 - 3 (pray) that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ...4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.*

*2 Thes 3:1–2 - 1 ... brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified...2 and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men...*

**Four universal, timeless needs...**

## **II. ALL BELIEVERS NEED AFFECTION**

*26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.*

*2 Cor 1:11 - ... (join) in helping us through your prayers...*

*Luke 7:37–38 - 37 ... a woman ...brought an alabaster vial of perfume, 38 and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears...and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.*

*Luke 15:20 - ...while (the ‘prodigal son’) was still a long way off, his father...ran and embraced him and kissed him.*

*Acts 20:37 - And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,*

*Mark 14:44–45 – 44...he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard."  
45 After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him.*

*Rom 16:16 - Greet one another with a holy kiss....*

*1 Cor 16:20 - ... Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

*1 Pet 5:14 - Greet one another with a kiss of love....*

*MARSHALL: A literal obedience may not be the best way of fulfilling the spirit of the teaching of the New Testament if kissing is not culturally acceptable outside sexual and family relationships. What is important is that the members of the church should have some way of expressing visibly and concretely the love which they have for one another as fellow members of the body of Christ.*

*CONSTABLE: An acceptable alternative in Western culture today might be an embrace...a pat on the back...or a handshake.*

JOHN LILLIE: *Forms may change; but the same spirit of brotherly love, and cordial recognition...  
...should ever characterize those who know the love of a common Savior, and have thus entered into the communion of the saints.*

Four universal, timeless needs...

### III. ALL BELIEVERS NEED TRUTH

*27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.*

*Col 4:16 - When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.*

**Four universal, timeless needs...**

**I. ALL BELIEVERS NEED PRAYER**

**II. ALL BELIEVERS NEED AFFECTION**

**III. ALL BELIEVERS NEED TRUTH**

**IV. ALL BELIEVERS NEED GRACE**

*28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

*Rom 16:20 – ...The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

*Gal 6:18 – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.*

*Eph 6:24 – Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.*

*2 Cor 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.*

*Col 4:18 - ... Grace be with you.*

*1 Thes 1:1 - ... Grace to you and peace.*

*Rom 5:17, 20–21 - 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ...20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

RICHARD PHILLIPS: *Our holiness is to breathe the air and exude the aroma of God's grace, responding to Him by singing – 'Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.'*

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