



This letter is all about a church being effective (2:1 & 3:5). However, sometimes an effective church becomes riddled with problems that can rob it of effectiveness. Let's fix them!

B.L.U.F. (Bottom Line Up Front) – *Prioritize your needs.* But, what are your core needs as a member of CBC?

1. P _____ v. 19

- 1) Powerful C _____ 1:5
- 2) Positive A _____ 1:6 & 2:14-16; James 1; Romans 5:1-5
- 3) Pure L _____ 4:8

2. P _____ v. 20

"prophecy" was the public proclamation of God's truth to man.
 "despise" = treat with scorn; the opposite of honor, esteem

How did these Christians receive the Word of God in their past? See 1 Thessalonians 2:13...

- Not the "Word of Men"
- But the "Word of God"
- Results – "effectually worketh"

Check out "Shame" in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (see conversation between Faithful and Christian).

3. D _____ v. 21-22

"prove" = the act of testing for the purpose of approving.
 Hebrews 5:14; Proverbs 1:1-6

- 1) Latch onto the G _____ v. 21b
- 2) Back off from Whatever Appears B _____ v. 22



Working to Maintain Greatness Involves: 3:10-4:2

Paul wanted to “perfect [repair, restore] what was lacking” (3:10). Fixing these problems will require

1st — Prayer (3:10-13) that people will love people & live unblameably holy before God.

2nd — Word of God (4:1-2) must be applied to their lives to give them instruction regarding how to live.

Prayer and the Word of God must be the focus of the pastoral ministry AND of members mentoring one another (discipleship).

The Word of God at Work – 5 Truths About Christian Living 4:1-2

1. There IS a Christian way to live.
"ought" = necessary, must, a moral imperative. You must live this way!
This is how Christians live.
2. It is taught in the Scriptures.
We begin with the Scriptures and mold our character to it.
3. It pleases God.
God is pleased when our lives are conformed to His teachings.
4. It is progressive – “abound more and more”.
No standing still in your relationship to God. No resting on yesterday's deeds. What are you doing for God today? Either growth or decay.
5. It involves commandments from Jesus Christ.
"commandments" is a military word. Used of military orders given by a superior. Not popular today but it's a part of the foundation of transforming lives.

Ten Specific Problems in the Church 4:3-5:22

God put His finger on specific problems that members in this church were struggling with and told them what to do about it. Fixing these problems will enable this great church to remain great and continue being effective.

Are any of these problems present in your life?

1. Lack of Moral Purity 4:3-8
2. Lack of Kindness 4:9-10
3. Busybodies – Not Minding Your Own Business 4:11a
4. Laziness – Not Paying Your Own Way 4:11b-12
5. Hopelessness at Death 4:13-5:11
6. Problems With Your Pastor 5:12-15
7. Negativism, Discouragement & Cynicism 5:16-18
8. Powerlessness 5:19
9. Minimizing Preaching 5:20
10. No Discernment 5:21-22

**A great and effective church can have a bright future.
The key is found in understanding this letter to
the church at Thessalonica.**