

## 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

<sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters, pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. <sup>27</sup> I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

<sup>28</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Sermon for December 17, 2023:** [www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online](http://www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online)

**KNOW ...** *God and his Word.*

In the prelude to our text above, we find the Apostle Paul encouraging and building up the Thessalonians in the Advent season — waiting and anticipating Christ's coming ... again. He reminded them that they were children of the light who were to wait in anticipation of the salvation they had been promised. But until that time arrives, Paul provided them with a series of instructions to live by in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28. Read the passage above.

- The first section (vv. 12-15) are instructions on how we ought to respond to others in the body of Christ. What "others" does Paul mention in these verses? How are we to respond to each one? What should be our goal in living with others (inside and outside the church)?
- Section two (vv. 16-18) outlines what our response to God should be. Name those responses. Why do you think these are God's will for us? Are these things easy or hard to do? Explain your answer.

- In section three (vv. 19-22), Paul focuses on God's work among us and how we should respond to it. List the "do not" exhortations or warnings Paul gave. In what obvious or subtle ways do we practice the things Paul is warning us *not to do*? List the things Paul encourages us *to do*. How does embracing these things help us see God's work more clearly in and around us?
- The final section (vv. 23-24) is Paul's prayer. After all of Paul's exhortations about how to live, who does he declare makes it possible for us to live this way? How is it possible?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts, or questions you may have.

**ACT ... responding to & applying what we know.**

In his sermon, Pastor Mark broke down Paul's 15 instructions and invited us to "measure how well we're doing for each of these on a scale of 1 to 10 ... with 1 being 'yeah, no, really not happening much' and 10 being, 'nailing it, couldn't be better.'" They are listed below.

Discuss the instructions. Rank them from easiest to most difficult to follow or obey. Suggest ways you can act to strengthen your obedience this week.

1. Honoring those who care for you in the Lord (1 Thess. 5:12-13).
2. *Live in peace with each other* (1 Thess. 5:13).
3. *And we urge you, ... warn those who are idle and disruptive,* (1 Thess. 5:14).
4. *... encourage the disheartened* (discouraged), (1 Thess. 5:14).
5. *... help the weak,* (1 Thess. 5:14).
6. *... be patient with everyone* (1 Thess. 5:14).
7. *Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong,* (1 Thess. 5:15).
8. *... always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else* (1 Thess. 5:15).
9. *Rejoice always,* (1 Thess. 5:16).
10. *... pray continually,* (1 Thess. 5:17).
11. *... give thanks in all circumstances ...* (1 Thess. 5:18).
12. *Do not quench the Spirit* (1 Thess. 5:19).
13. *Do not treat prophecies* (inspired messages) *with contempt, but test them all* (1 Thess. 5:20).
14. *... hold on to what is good,* (1 Thess. 5:21).
15. *... reject every kind of evil* (1 Thess. 5:22).

**BE ... *living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.***

Make time this week to honestly reflect on ***your*** level of obedience to the (above) ACT instructions in your *waiting for Christ to come.*

LISTEN for what the Spirit may be saying about your current obedience. RECEIVE his approval of you and what you are now doing. OBEY anything the Spirit asks you to change or begin doing.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus, living as a good and faithful servant as you wait!

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Angela*

***Rev. Angela Alvarado***  
Discipleship Pastor  
College Church of the Nazarene University Avenue  
[aalvarado@collegechurch.org](mailto:aalvarado@collegechurch.org)