

## 1 Thessalonians 5:15-28 – Final Instructions & Closing.

### I. No revenge (15).

**Matthew 5:38-42** - *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. ‘But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ‘If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. ‘And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ‘Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*”

### II. (16) Rejoice.

“The Christian can **rejoice always** because their joy isn’t based in circumstances, but in God. Circumstances change, but God doesn’t.”

**Psalm 9:2** - *I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

**Philippians 4:4** - *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

“Turn this book over and see if there be any precept that the Lord has given you in which he has said, ‘Groan in the Lord always, and again I say groan.’ You may groan if you like. You have Christian liberty for that; but, at the same time, do believe that you have larger liberty to rejoice, for so it is put before you.” Charles Spurgeon.

### III. Pray without ceasing (17).

In differing tones, postures, times and places, we ought to have a continuous conversation (talking and listening) with our loving Father.

**1 Chronicles 4:10** - *And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.*

**Jude 1:20** - *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,*

### IV. In everything give thanks (18).

**Psalm 35:18** - *I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.*

**Psalm 107:31** - *Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!*

## **V. Do not quench the Spirit (19).**

‘Quench’ here means to the putting out of a flame or a lamp.”

**Joel 2:28** - *“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.*

**Ephesians 5:18** - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

## **VI. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things (Acts 17:10-12)...(20-21).**

We can despise God’s Word through negligence, indifference and disobedience.

**Isaiah 30:8-10** - *Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, “Do not see,” And to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.*

**1 Corinthians 14:1** - *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*

## **VII. Abstain from every form of evil (22).**

We’re to shun evil in whatever form or appearance it may present itself.”(Hiebert). It’s to hold oneself off, refrain.

**1 Peter 2:11-12** - *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

**1 Timothy 6:10-11** - *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.*

## **VIII. Conclusion (23-28).**

Paul concludes in prayer; set apart/cleanse and preserve our spirit, soul and body.

He concludes by asking for prayer.

He concludes asking them to greet with holy affection.

He concludes instructing for the reading of this Book to all.

He concludes by commending them to God's grace.

“Whatever God has to say to us – and in all the New Testament letters there are things that search the heart and make it quake – begins and ends with grace.... All that God has been to man in Jesus Christ is summed up in it: all His gentleness and beauty, all His tenderness and patience, all the holy passion of His love, is gathered up in grace. What more could one soul wish for another than that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ should be with it?” (Denney, cited in Morris)