

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*“Piety within the Person”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**September 21 – September 27, 2008**

**THE LORD'S DAY** –As we continue along in the final portion of 1 Thessalonians we come now to **verses 16-18** of **chapter 5**. In the past several weeks we have seen first our need for *“Piety toward Pastors”* (how we are to live and act toward God ordained church leadership), then *“Piety from the Pews”* (how we are to act and live toward our fellow believers), and now *“Piety within the Person”* (how we cultivate personal piety from the commands of Holy Scripture). In our text, we will see three duties which if obeyed will strengthen us spiritually and enable us to live right toward God and be better fit to serve God and others. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –As we look at these three verses of Scripture we find that the three exhortations are tied together in thought. They are interconnected as a reading of parallel passages will indicate. When we are commanded to constantly pray we find that this is the way we experience consistent joy, and in prayer and communion with God we are also put into a mindset of thankfulness toward God which we read is *“...the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* In the following passages Paul speaks to the same subject to other sets of recipients, the Romans and Philippians. Notice the parallels. Read **Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:4-6**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask the Lord to help you grow in Him and manifest these traits in your life as you seek to obey and live out “His will for you”.*

**TUESDAY** –Our first exhortation is brief yet comprehensive. It is simply stated as *“Rejoice always...”* We as children of God should be the most joyful people in the world today. We should be full of joy as we contemplate our pardon by the blood of Christ, our justification by His righteousness, and our atonement by His sacrifice in our place. Men *“rejoice”* in their prosperity and riches. Many people *“rejoice”* or *“glory”* in their sin and wickedness. The religious hypocrite rejoices in his profession of religion, and what others think of him. Some like the Pharisees rejoice in their legalism, the keeping of a list of man made rules and in that feel they have some security based on their own works. The Scripture tells us that there is a danger in boasting about our accomplishments and our anticipated accomplishments and *“all such boasting is evil”* (**James 4:13-17**). We are to find our full joy and rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ, in the glory of His person and

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

His work for us, His people. We also may “rejoice” in the continuing work of our great Mediator, who is the Mediator of the Covenant of God to His elect. Read **Luke 10:20**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to meditate on Jesus and His glory and rejoice in all that I have and am in Him by Your great grace.*

**WEDNESDAY** –The Greek word used here for joy is the word *Chairo* which literally means “to be glad, to rejoice exceedingly”. He tells us this should take place “*pantote*” (“at all times, always, ever”). It is a very hard thing for us to do as sinful people, but God has told us we are to rejoice always, in every circumstance, even when suffering for Him (**Matthew 5:11-12**). The reason for this is what we saw yesterday; namely that our joy has as its foundation, the eternal, unchanging covenant God our Father. The joyous salvation we have was purchased for us through the work of Christ, God The Son, and secured in us through God The Holy Spirit. As we will see later in the text, we live in this joy in the fullest sense as we pray and are thankful understanding the providence and care of our great God for us. We find rest and comfort as we come to God in prayer and cast our anxiety upon Him. As we live in communion with Him in obedience and faith, being filled with His Spirit, filled with His Word, we find great joy and comfort. Read **Psalm 16:11, Romans 8:1-2, 14-17, 28-39**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to always rejoice in You. Help me live in obedience and faith and truly grasp the joy that is real and lasting, found in You.*

**THURSDAY** –In order to help us live in this joy, God now gives us the direction of, “...*pray without ceasing*”. John Calvin comments, “As, however, there are every day, nay, every moment, many things that may disturb our peace, and mar our joy, he for this reason bids us *pray without ceasing*.” We are to be regular in our seasons of prayer; in our personal prayer, family prayer, and corporate prayer with the people of God. This is so very important that we should not allow anything to interrupt or interfere with such a noble and honorable thing, as to speak with the one and only God of the universe. We also see in this command that we are to live in a constant attitude and state of prayerfulness. Albert Barnes comments, “We are to be in such a frame of mind as to be ready to pray publicly if requested; and when alone, to improve any moment of leisure which we may have when we feel ourselves strongly inclined to pray. That Christian is in a bad state of mind who has suffered himself, by attention to worldly cares, or by light conversation, or by gayety and vanity, or by reading an improper book, or by eating or drinking too much, or by late hours at night among the thoughtless and the vain, to be brought into such a condition that he cannot engage in prayer with proper feelings. There has been evil done to the soul if it be not prepared for communion with God at all times, and if it would not find pleasure in approaching his holy throne.” We need to be diligent not to allow for gaps of prayerfulness to

creep into our lives. We must battle fiercely to keep prayer a priority in our lives. Read **Luke 18:1, 21:36, Ephesians 6:18, Colossians 4:2, 1 Peter 4:7**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me and give me strength to be diligent in prayer. Forgive me for neglecting so often this sacred honor and duty.*

**FRIDAY** –In **verse 18** we read, “...*in everything give thanks*...” We are again reminded how these three commands go together when we are commanded to be thankful “*in everything*”. Even when situations are not what we would like them to be, as believers who are rejoicing and taking our burdens to the Lord in prayer. It is here in this phrase that we are reminded that in prayer we are not murmuring, complaining, and fretting; rather we are as Calvin said to, “...always mingle thanksgiving with our desires. We may lawfully, it is true, ask, nay, sigh and lament, but it must be in such a way that the will of God is more acceptable to us than our own.” We must remember that even though circumstances may seem to be adverse or against us, according to Holy Scripture, nothing really is (**Romans 8:28**). How we need to strive to learn that if we “*pray without ceasing*” we will not lack for thanksgiving “*in everything*”. Read **Psalm 34:1, Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 3:17, Hebrews 13:15**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me strive to give thanks in everything. In this may I praise You, trusting that You do all things for my good & Your glory.*

**SATURDAY** –The Apostle sums up **verse 18** with the clear statement which ties together all three verses of our text: “...*for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*.” Often people ask to know God’s will; here in our text He spells out His will for us as believers. The phrase “*in Christ Jesus*” may contain several thoughts. Not only did Christ exemplify these traits showing us and living perfectly in “*the will of God*”, and therefore we are to live this way as well in His name. We also see here how God The Father looks upon His own people as being “*in Christ*” and the affection and love of The Father toward the Son is disposed to the elect in God’s tender care for us in that He works all things out for our eternal benefit. We need never lose sight in the midst of trial and difficulty of our position and standing in Jesus Christ because of His work on our behalf. In all of life’s situations may we repent of our impatience and grumbling and live a true life of piety, saturated in rejoicing, prayer, and the giving of thanks to our great and gracious God. Read **Psalm 69:30, 1 Peter 4:1-2, 1 John 2:17**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, Son, and Spirit, I praise You for Your great and infinite love for me. Help me to better live out a life of true piety toward You.*