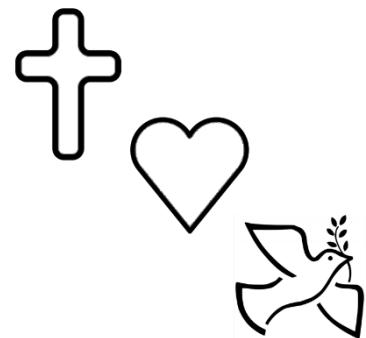


January 24, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 9
Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!



This series of meditations is based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.⁵ You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or

asleep, we may live together with him.¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

¹² Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.

¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.

Live in peace with each other.¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit's fire;²⁰ do not treat prophecies with contempt.²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good.²² Avoid every kind of evil.

²³ 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.²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

²⁵ Brothers, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

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

Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!

Paul writes to the Church to be ready for the Second Coming of the Lord.

Vs. 1-3 – Time and Date

There are two words used for time in the Greek language:

chronoi - time of duration

kairoi - time in the qualitative sense

The “Day of the Lord” in the Old Testament meant when God judges the wicked and vindicates the righteous.

Also called the Day of Christ – Philippians 1:10, 1 Corinthians 3:13; 2 Thessalonian 1:10.

No one knows the time except the Father in heaven.

How the church should view the Second coming of Christ:

The coming of Christ may be distant as measured on the scale of human life, but may be ‘near,’ and ‘at hand,’ and ‘at the door,’ when the interval of the two advents is compared, not merely with the four thousand years which were but its preparation, but with the line of infinite ages which it is itself preparing.

The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary: Galatians to Thessalonians, pg. 535

The church should be prepared to face this great event, because it will come – Luke 12:39; Matthew 24:42; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 16:18.

unannounced – be prepared.

suddenly – like labor pain of a pregnant woman - no one can prevent it.

Vs. 4-11

People will be deaf to the warning – like in Noah’s time Matthew 24:37-39; Jeremiah 6:15.

We need to be:

awake,
ready,
sober,
alert,
self-controlled.

Why? We are people of light.

We put on faith and love as breastplate,
The hope of salvation as a helmet.
Encouraging each other and building each other up.

Vs. 12-15

The church will not grow without responsible leadership, respect for leadership and a focus on interpersonal relationships.

Service & Character – Leaders can be seen as the ‘eyes of the church’ and the ‘mouth of God,’ and must be esteemed and lovable. Christ is the model for leaders – preaching and teaching, a fellow servant. Work hard, admonish, correct, and warn – but with love.

Warn – the idle

Encourage – the timid

Help – the weak

Be patient – with every person

Be kind

Avoid the temptation to take revenge. Matthew 5:44-46; Romans 12:17a.

Vs. 16-18

God’s will for us in Christ Jesus – three imperatives

1. To rejoice – Integral part of the Christian life. Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4,10; 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:20; 3:9; 5:16

To rejoice in the Lord always is to see the hand of God in whatever is happening and to remain certain of God's future salvation.

2. To pray – Paul's life is full of active prayer in his personal life.

Praying for others: 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:11; Romans 1:9-10 and Colossians 1:3, 9

Asking others to pray: 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1; Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2, 3

3. To be thankful – Give thanks in all situations and at all times.

Paul is not asking his readers to thank God for tragedy and misfortune, but exhorts them to be thankful in the midst of the various and changing situations in life, be they good or bad. There are always good reasons for gratitude.

Evangelical Commentary on the Bible, pg 1084

Vs. 19-22

Paul's' further instructions

1. Do not put out the Spirit's fire. Fire is the symbol of the Spirit. Don't quench it. Let the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in us.

2. Do not treat prophecies with contempt. Prophecies speak to men "for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort." 1 Corinthians 14:3

3. Test everything – Scrutinize all manifestations of the Spiritual gifts. The gift of discernment is an ability to distinguish between spirits. 1 Corinthians 12:10

4. Hold on to what is good.

5. Avoid every kind of evil. Nothing to do with evil in any shape or form.

Vs 23-28 – Benediction and Prayer.

God of peace. Romans 15:33; 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11;

Philippians 4:9

May God himself sanctify you through and through.

May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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Barlow, George. *The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary: I & II Thessalonians*. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1896.

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