

## Exhortation to Live a Holy Life

February 5, 2017



Scripture Lesson found in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-28 **This is an excerpt from the message.**

**Verse 15: See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.** This we must look to, and be very careful about, that is, we must by all means forbear to avenge ourselves. If others do us an injury, this will not justify us in returning it, in doing the same, or any other injury to them. It becomes us to forgive, as those that are, and that hope to be forgiven of God.

Ever to follow that which is good, in general, we must study to do what is our duty, and pleasing to God, in all circumstances, whether men do us good deeds or ill deed; whatever men do to us, we must do good to others. We must always endeavor to be beneficent and instrumental to promote the welfare of others, both among ourselves (**within the household of faith**) and then, as we have opportunity, **unto all men. Gal 6:10**

**Ver. 16: Rejoice evermore.** Here we have many short exhortations that will not challenge our memories, but will be of great use to direct the motions of our hearts and lives, for the duties are of great importance. We must observe how they are connected together and have a dependence upon one another. Rejoice evermore, must be understood of spiritual joy, for we must rejoice in our creature comforts as if we rejoiced not, and must not expect to live many years, and rejoice in them all; but, if we do rejoice in God, we may do that evermore. In him our joy will be full; and it is our fault if we have not a continual feast. If we are sorrowful for any worldly account, yet still we may **always rejoice. 2 Cor. 6:10.** A religious life is a pleasant life, it is a life of constant joy.

**Ver. 17: Pray without ceasing.** Note, the way to rejoice evermore is to pray without ceasing. We should rejoice more if we prayed more. We should maintain a stated time for prayer. We should pray always, and not faint; pray without weariness, and continue in prayer, till we come to that world where prayer shall be swallowed up in praise. The meaning is not that men should do nothing but pray, but that nothing else we do should hinder prayer in its proper season. Prayer will help advance forward and not hinder all other lawful business, and every good work.

**Ver. 18: In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.** If we pray without ceasing, we shall not want matter for thanksgiving in everything. As we must in everything make our requests known to God by supplications, so we must not omit thanksgiving, **Phil 4:6** We should be thankful in every condition, even in adversity as well as prosperity. It is never so bad with us but it might be worse. If we have ever so much occasion to make our humble complaints to God, we never can have any reason to complain of God, and have always much reason to praise and give thanks; the Jesus concerning us, that we give thanks, seeing God is reconciled to us in Christ Jesus; in him, through him and for his sake, he allows us to rejoice evermore, and appoints us in everything to give thanks. It is pleasing to God.

God has called us unto holiness.