

## Thanksgiving Celebration

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

Pastor Brett Ricley

11/21/2021

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV):** *16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

### Roadmap:

- 3 Verbs: Rejoice, Pray, Give thanks
- 3 Absolute Qualifiers: Always, Without Ceasing, In all Circumstances

### **IMPERATIVE #1 – BE JOYFUL (v.16) “Rejoice always...”**

**Truth Point #1:** Being joyful is a \_\_\_\_\_. The ability to be joyful comes through an intentional, proactive, and daily effort to train our minds to meditate on three “G’s”: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- **God** – meditate on His Triune nature (Father, Son, Spirit), His holy character, His holy attributes, His good promises, and His divine revelation to us in the Bible. (Philippians 4:4, Psalm 1, 77)
- **Gospel** – meditate on the story of redemption through Jesus’ perfect life, sacrificial death, glorious resurrection, and promised second coming. (1 Cor. 15:1-11) Remember and celebrate our election, salvation, justification, sanctification, and future glorification. (Romans 5, Ephesians 1-2)
- **Good** – meditate on things that are wholesome, true, righteous, and edifying. (Joshua 1:8, Phil. 4:8, Psalm 119, Col. 3:1-17)

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**Gospel Invitation:** If you have not repented of your sins and believed in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, you have NOTHING to rejoice about today. In fact, apart from a personal and saving relationship with Jesus Christ, your future is not bright or hopeful at all.

### Bad News:

- Romans 3:19 says you'll be held accountable to God
- Romans 3:23 says ALL have sinned against God and fallen short of His righteous standard
- Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is eternal death and separation from God in hell

### Good News:

Romans 3:23-26 says “**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. **26** It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Questions? Contact Pastor Brett at [bricley@themissiondsm.org](mailto:bricley@themissiondsm.org)

## **IMPERATIVE #2 – BE PRAYERFUL (v.17) “Pray without ceasing...”**

**Truth Point #2:** Being prayerful is a \_\_\_\_\_. Being prayerful involves an intentional, proactive, and daily choice to humbly submit ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_ in replacement of our own.

(Jesus modeled this. See Luke 2:41-52, 6:12-13, 22:42)

**IMPERATIVE #3 – BE THANKFUL (v.18a) “Give thanks in all circumstances...”**

***Thankfulness begins as we remember that God has graciously given us what we did not deserve and could never earn: mercy.***  
(See Titus 3:3-7)

**Truth Point #3:** Being thankful is a \_\_\_\_\_. Being thankful involves an intentional, proactive, and daily choice to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s good \_\_\_\_\_ towards us.

**Is it realistic, or even possible, to rejoice and give thanks to God when we experience suffering, trials, and hardships? The Bible’s answer is a resounding “Yes”:**

- Matthew 5:11-12
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 12:10
- Romans 8:28-29
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- 1 Peter 3:14-20

***Being thankful is an intentional choice to focus your heart and mind on the bigger picture of God’s sovereign plan and purposes, not necessarily the specific circumstances in and of themselves.***

**REVIEW:**

- **Rejoice** – *always*
- **Pray** – *without ceasing*
- **Give thanks** – *in all circumstances*

**Why should we pursue these things?**

**V.18b – “...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”**

- “This” refers to all three imperatives (rejoice, pray, give thanks)
- It is God’s will that we all, IN CHRIST, would cultivate these spiritual qualities of joyfulness, prayerfulness, and thankfulness.

**Truth Point #4:** It is God’s will that we become like Jesus as we abide in Jesus. A disciple that abides in Jesus will eventually become someone who is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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