

# Memory Verse

***2 Peter 3:11***

**Since all these things are to be destroyed  
in this way, what sort of people ought you  
to be in holy conduct and godliness...**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

# Living in the Light of Jesus' Return

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***1 Thessalonians 5:11-22***



In *context*, Paul talks about the **rapture** in **1 Thessalonians 4**, and the **Day of the Lord** in the early verses of *chapter 5*. He tells the readers God has not destined us for His wrath, but for *salvation*, or **physical deliverance**, through Christ. He reminds them that *Christ died in our place* and whether we are alive or dead at His return, we will live with **Him**.

**1 *Thessalonians 5:11-22*** - Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing. 12But we ask you, brothers, to recognize those who diligently labor among you and are in leadership over you in the Lord, and give you instruction, 13and that you regard them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

**14We urge you, brothers, admonish the unruly (*the undisciplined*), encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek what is good for one another and for all people. 16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ**

**Jesus. 19Do not quench the Spirit, 20do not utterly reject prophecies, 21but examine everything; hold firmly to that which is good, 22abstain from every form (*appearance*) of evil.**

***A. 5:11 –***  
**Encourage Others**



After addressing the return of Jesus, Paul says... **Therefore**... *In light of, or because of the return of Jesus, here is how you are to **act and live** as a Christian. First, they, and we are to ...**encourage** others. This can be translated, "to call for, exhort, encourage."* This is being *up close and personal* and involves being an advocate, as a lawyer is and advocate for a client...

Paul also says to ...**build one another up**. This has the *image of a building that is being constructed*. This is encouraging others to *grow in their Christian life, in holiness, virtue and grace of God*. This is not just speaking, but **helping** them to do so, giving them resources, answering questions, helping them sort through the difficult aspects of the Christian life, and more...

**Hebrews 10:19-25** - Therefore... 23Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24and let's consider how to **encourage** one another in love and good deeds, 25not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

***B. 5:12-13a –***  
**Respect Your**  
**Leaders**



Paul says to **recognize**, or **perceive** and **know**, those who **diligently lead** and **instruct you in the Lord**...

You **regard** them, or **think** of them ...**very highly**, or **beyond measure** or **exceedingly!**

You are to **respect the leaders** God has given in your local congregation. Rather than **rejecting** them, you are to **highly respect** them...

***Hebrews 13:7*** - Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their way of life, imitate their faith.

***C. 5:13b* –  
Be Peaceable**



This refers to ***bring to peace, keep the peace, or be at peace***, and carries the idea of ***being whole*** or having ***integrity of being***. This does not mean we overlook problems, or make excuses for sinful behavior. It means we do what we can, to be a peaceable person and make peace with others ***when there are problems...***

*Are we a peace maker or a peace taker?*

***Romans 12:18*** - If possible... be at peace with all people.

**D. 5:14-15 –  
Treat Others  
Appropriately**



God, *through Paul*, makes an *urgent* or *earnest* request, to do **5 things** in 2 verses. The idea is that *because Paul has a special relationship with them*, he asks *they do these things*:

1. Admonish the unruly (*undisciplined*)
2. Encourage the fainthearted
3. Help the weak
4. Be patient with everyone,
5. Do not repay evil for evil, but do what is

good

Those who are **undisciplined** need a *warning, Biblical counsel, an exhortation* and a *challenge* to do the right thing. The **fainthearted** and **weak** in the faith, perhaps baby Christians, or someone who has just gone through a trauma, need to be *encouraged*. Someone who **lacks courage**, needs to be disciplined, developed, or strengthened.

Then he says to ***be patient with everyone!*** That is a message unto itself! *Fifth*, he says ***not to take personal vengeance.*** If someone *does or says something evil to you*, don't do the same thing or get back at them. Something may need to be *said or confronted*, but do what is right, good and just in God's eyes.

**E. 5:16 –  
Rejoice Always**



Now for another difficult one... **rejoice always!** This word is connected or related to the word for **grace**. We are to be thankful for God's grace or rejoice in and because of His grace *at all times*.

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

**F. 5:17 –  
Pray Always**



We are to ***rejoice always*** and to ***pray always***, or ***without ceasing***, or ***constantly*** and ***consistently***. We are always to be *talking* to God, *connected* to God and *communicating* with Him. This **doesn't mean** we are bowing our heads, closing our eyes, and talking to God and ignoring our family, friends, responsibilities, bills, health, etc. It means that ***throughout our day, we pray...***

**G. 5:18 –  
Be Thankful**



Part of *prayer*, and *part of life*, is being **thankful**. What are we to be *thankful for or in*? **Everything**. As with rejoicing, we may not be thankful for what we are facing, but we can be thankful for who *God is*, and what **He has done**. Paul said that **for and in all things**, be **thankful**, as *this is the will of God for your life!* We often ask - *What is God's will?* One thing is to *be people who are thankful!*

**H. 5:19-20 –  
Heed the Truth**



God through Paul said - *Do not quench the Spirit, do not utterly reject prophecies –*

What does it *mean to quench the Spirit?*  
It means to *extinguish, suppress, thwart* or *quench*. The image is *pouring water on a fire.*

How do we *quench the Spirit?*

Paul is **not** talking about those who *always claim to tell the future*. During the time this was written, the **Bible wasn't complete**. There were *legitimate prophets who proclaimed God's word in a local congregation*. That is what Paul is referring to here.

After talking about the **Antichrist** and **salvation: 2 Thessalonians 2:15** - So then, brothers, stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

***Listen to the truth, stand firm in the truth, proclaim the truth...***

**I. 5:21 –  
Be Discerning**



Just because *someone says something is from God*, **doesn't mean it's from God**. We need to be **discerning**! We need to **examine everything**... The word for **examine** can also be translated to **test**. We need to *test* what we think, what we say, hear, and do, and what others say and do *by what God says*. If it **doesn't match up** with God's word, **reject** it!

**J. 5:22 –  
Avoid Evil**



Avoid every **appearance** or **form** of evil, or what is seen. This *includes a lot of things* in that day and today. There are *plenty of evil things* for us to look at and think upon. We should avoid **that which is evil** and **that which looks evil** in God's sight.

Please take a minute to fill out your

# NEXT STEPS

At [GraceLife Church](#), our mission is drawing people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

**TODAY'S MESSAGE CHALLENGE IS:**

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In the end times it will be **more critical** to **encourage** other believers as things become increasingly difficult with persecution, denial of truth, betrayal and more. As we get *closer to end times* and *when Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week begins*, how much more important will good, true, and faithful **Christian leaders** be!

How *hard* and *important* will it be in *those days* to live in **peace** with other Christians and as best as you can, and others who need to hear the truth...

At that time, we will *need to learn how to rejoice* in the *trials* we face and we will *learn to pray* a *lot better* in the end times, when things are *difficult*, rather than when they are *easy*.

We will learn to be **thankful** for *who God is and what He has done* when all we have is taken away. We then will see how *precious the truth is and mourn that we neglected it and rejected it for so long* in our churches and in our lives. We then will know how important it is to be **discerning** because *lies, deception, and evil* will be much worse.

**2 Peter 3:10-18** - But the **Day of the Lord** will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be discovered. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, **what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...**

**14Therefore**, beloved, since you look for these things, be **diligent** to be found **spotless** and **blameless** by Him, at peace... **17You therefore**, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard (***be discerning***) so that you are not carried away by the error of unscrupulous people and lose your own firm commitment, **18but grow** in the **grace and knowledge** of our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...**