

GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Key Verse: 5:18

“ ...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1. What is one of Paul’s main themes in this letter? (4:16; 5:1,2) How are verses 16-18 related to faith in the second coming of Jesus?
2. Read verse 16. What kind of joy is Paul talking about here? How is it different from worldly joy? What is the source of the Christian’s joy? How can we be joyful “always”? (Ps16:11; Lk1:46,47; Ac16:25)
3. Read verse 17. What is prayer? (cf. Mt6:9-13; 7:7; 26:39) What does “pray continually” mean? (Lk11:5-8; 18:1; 21:36) What happens to those who do not pray continually? (Mk14:38) What are the fruits of continual prayer? (Lk2:25; 11:13; Gal5:22,23)
4. Read verse 18a. What should be our basic attitude toward God? Why? (Ge1:1; Jn3:16; Ps103:1-5; Ps136:1; Jas1:17) What happens to those who do not thank God? (Ro1:21) How can we give thanks in all circumstances? (Ro8:28) How does God bless those who thank him?
5. Read verse 18b. What is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus? At this Thanksgiving season, for what are you thankful to God?