



1 *Thessalonians* 5:12-28

Lesson 9

The closing verses of Chapter 5 are wonderfully practical guidelines on how to live as believers in three areas of life. First, how to act toward the leaders of a church. Second, how to live with other believers. And finally, how to live toward God and respond to the situations He places us in – all commanded by this great apostle whose heart was enlarged for God’s people. May we receive them and walk in them as God has intended.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

1. Read through this week’s verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God/Father* and *Jesus*.
Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, peace, faithful, love, grace, patient, labor/work, and urge/exhort/charge*
3. The use of the contrasting word *but* was used in 1 Thessalonians 5:15. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. This final section of 1 Thessalonians contains several instructions. Using verses 14-22, list the choices Paul *exhorts* us to make.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

1. Paul began the closing words of this letter with an instruction regarding *those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord*. Consider your church. Make a list of some of the people that this verse pertains to.

2. What three things are we exhorted to do?
 - a. Record some synonyms for the word *recognize*.

 - b. What do you think it means to:
 - recognize a church leader?*

 - esteem them very highly in love?*

 - be at peace among yourselves (with them)?*

3. The leaders referred to in these verses both *labor* and *admonish*. Define these words as you consider what you personally expect of a leader.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:14

1. This verse begins with the words, *now we exhort you*, and is followed by four *exhortations*. What are they?

2. What are some synonyms for the word *unruly*?
 - a. Notice that this *exhortation* follows Paul's *urging to be at peace among yourselves*. What can we learn from this?

3. What are some synonyms for *fainthearted*?
 - a. What are some practical ways to *comfort the fainthearted*?

4. The word *weak*, as it is used in this passage, refers to those who are *weak* in faith. What are some of the struggles a person has who is *weak* in faith?
 - a. What are some practical ways to *uphold the weak*?
5. What do you think is meant by the *exhortation to be patient with all*?
6. Summarize the intent of these four *exhortations*.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:15-22

1. These verses contain ten very important commands. The first command is *see that no one renders evil for evil to anyone*. Record the words of Proverbs 20:22.
 - a. ... *always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all*. Record the words of Luke 6:35.
 - b. *Rejoice always*. Record the words of Philippians 4:4.
 - c. *Pray without ceasing*. Record the words of Luke 18:1.
 - d. *In everything give thanks*. Record the words of Hebrews 13:15.
 - e. *Do not quench the Spirit*. Record the words of Ephesians 4:30.
 - f. *Do not despise prophecies*. Record the words of 1 Corinthians 14:1.
 - g. *Test all things*. Record the words of 1 Corinthians 2:14,15.
 - h. *Hold fast what is good*. Record the words of Hebrews 10:23.
 - i. *Abstain from every form of evil*. Record the words of 2 Corinthians 8:21.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 contains a prayer of Paul's. What two things did he pray for?
 - a. Why are these two things of great importance for every believer?

2. Record the glorious words of 1 Thessalonians 5:24.
 - a. What does this promise personally mean to you?

3. Record Paul's request in verse 25.
 - a. If you were the recipient of this letter from Paul, how might you *pray* for him?

4. The closing verses of 1 Thessalonians contain a greeting and a *charge* that this letter be read to *all the holy brethren*. As you consider the contents of this letter, what has challenged or encouraged you?

REVIEW:

1. What did you learn from this lesson about the way you are to *recognize* church leaders?

2. When is it most difficult to *esteem highly in love* those in leadership in your church?
 - a. What would God have you do in those times?

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 calls us to *warn, comfort, and uphold*. Each are very different actions. How do you decide which to apply?

4. Which of Paul's short commands in this passage have you been most challenged to work on?
 - a. Why?

5. What was your favorite verse in this lesson?
 - a. Why?

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely;
and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Observation Worksheet

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. **14** Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. **16** Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **19** Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. **23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*. **25** Brethren, pray for us. **26** Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. **27** I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. **28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.