

# What we do until He comes

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

Introduction: We have seen in our series thus far the Paul using Gods word to correct misunderstandings about the rapture of the church, false teaching, bad application and now the Apostle Paul is moved to show us how to move forward. Have you ever noticed when some people have been exposed as fake people have a tendency to lose confidence in the material they teach about? For instance diets! There comes along this diet and it is a big hit everyone seems to get on board, then it is exposed as a big fake. Well it seems that people quit eating right because our confidence in diets has been effected. The same thing happens with the gospel, when false teachers are exposed their credibility is rightly damaged, but do you realize many, especially the immature believer and the lost lose confidence in the gospel. That is what we are all in danger of. The world is full of trouble and temptation and there are times when people fall into it, sometimes we even create it, other times it is just dumped in our lap. Yet the result, often, is our confidence in God's word is diminished. In today's passage the word of God reminds us of a few basic and fundamental truths that when applied to our lives will affirm our confidence in God's word and the promise He has made to return for us and rapture us away. The do's and don'ts of "what do to until He comes" can be understood this way...

### I. Until the Lords return we should live three things... Vs.16-18

#### A. A heart of consistent rejoicing v.16

What do you mean there is nothing to rejoice over? Rejoicing doesn't mean getting your way! It is an imperative; a full command, here given as sound advice to follow. JOY to you, always, is an inner condition that is always (ever more) expressed through your life.

#### B. An attitude of consistent prayer v.17

Not necessarily being vocal but it does remind us we should pray without ceasing. That means we should be capable of calling out to God in public or private in a personal, conversational manner every time the situation presents itself. According to Hebrews 10:19-20 because of Jesus Christ we have the ability to approach God with BOLDNESS. The child of God has their Fathers attention!

#### C. An understanding of consistent thanks v.18

In (en, in, means remaining in place.) doesn't mean because of. Whatever situation or circumstance you are in give thanks for the work God is doing in and through your life. This gives us the strength to continue and be at peace in the situations we find ourselves in. I am not saying be thankful for the circumstances necessarily, find God in them and be thankful for His presence...

## II. Until the Lords return we should likewise avoid...Vs. 19-22

### A. Quenching the Spirit v.19

To the church of Ephesus the Lord tells us in Revelation 2:5 remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. So, quenching the spirit involves a fallen saint that will not repent which results in the Lord removing the lampstand. Without the lampstand there is no place for fire (spirit).

The Greek word we translate into Quench also derives the word asbestos (not flammable).

### B. The rejection of God's word v.20-22

#### 1. By embracing the written word v.20-21

The Old Testament had their prophets, The New Testament had their apostles, The Church has the written word of God as delivered to us by God through the pens of these authors. Ephesians 4:11 tells us the Church has the gifts of the evangelist, the pastor, the teacher; they deliver Gods message from His written word. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" and it is good for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction to accomplish righteousness! We must not only accept it or just believe it we must embrace it. **The written word of God should be the foundation that your entire life is built upon!**

#### 2. By rejecting association with evil v.22

If we are truly saved we know Jesus is returning, He will rapture His church and that is made up of the saved. Why would you want to be found in association ungodly living? We should be confronting the ungodly person with the gospel of Jesus Christ, pointing them to salvation. We should not be conforming to the teaching, practice or promotion of ungodly principles.

Our scripture closes with "abstain from the appearance of evil" in other words we should stay away from everything that will associate us with evil. In Luke 11:4 the Lord taught us to pray "deliver us from evil" and rest assured He will, after deliverance we have a responsibility to stay away from it!

Conclusion: While our musicians come and prepare a hymn of invitation I would like to say in closing. We live in a really messed up world! Or? Do we live in a world just coming out of its closet? It has been preached for generations the world is evil. Satan is the prince of the powers of the air, he is the ruler of this world. Those same preachers were laughed at, mocked, ridiculed and even explained away. Sadly, many in the church followed that path. Now as we rapidly approach the Lords promised return we see the world coming out of its closet and taking off the mask of hypocrisy, revealing the heart of evil that lay at the very foundation of the world we live in. Without shame we see today where the world receives the direction it follows. This places the church in a very obvious position. We stand opposed to the world, its standard, its leaders and its religion. That leaves you personally in a very simple situation; If you are **NOT** saved today you are part of the world, and you will suffer the same judgment (**HELL**) if you continue to reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If you are saved today (you will avoid HELL but) does your lifestyle reveal that you have

been transformed by the renewing power of the Holy Spirit or does it reveal that you still conform to the temptations of the world? Simply put, today we have seen from Gods word what to do and what not to do until the Lord returns, now the question for you to answer becomes where do you fit into scripture and where should you fit into scripture? If God is dealing with your heart concerning salvation, repentance, revival or anything else be obedient to Him, come meet Him in the altar this morning!!!