

# 1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 28

New International Version (NIV)

1 <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on  
2 faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a  
3 helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to  
4 receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for  
5 us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live  
6 together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and  
7 build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

8 <sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those  
9 who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and  
10 who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love  
11 because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And  
12 we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and  
13 disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be  
14 patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back  
15 wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for  
16 each other and for everyone else.

17 <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all  
18 circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with  
20 contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject  
21 every kind of evil.

22 <sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through  
23 and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept  
24 blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one  
25 who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

26 <sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters, pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Greet all God's people  
27 with a holy kiss. <sup>27</sup> I charge you before the Lord to have this  
28 letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

29 <sup>28</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*Read verses 8 – 11 from last week to see the context of this passage. Then, starting in verse 12:*

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**Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle the commands, instructions, etc.
- Underline the words that explain the commands.
- Other observations?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- What does it look like to “acknowledge” leaders (v. 12-13)? [Other translations: “respect” (ESV), “appreciate” (NASB), “recognize” (CSB), lit. “know” (KJV)]
- How do we recognize the people Paul is describing (v. 12)?
- How would you summarize what Paul “asks” (v. 12) and what he “urges” (v.14)? What is the difference (or is there any difference)?
- How does Paul summarize our sanctification process?
- What other questions come to mind?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How can you acknowledge others that have impacted your spiritual formation? Who might that be?
- Which of Paul's exhortations is the most applicable to you? How would your life change if you more closely followed that instruction?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**