



# THE THREAD

*weaving Sunday's message through the week*

**Date:** May 5, 2019

**Passage:** 1 Thessalonians 5

**Theme:** Members Helping Others Flourish

**Question:** Are you ready for Christ to return? (vv. 1–10)

As a follower of Christ, we can be ready for his return by encouraging and building up one another (v. 11). How?

1. Appreciate and support your leaders (12–13). Why?
  - a. They work hard.
  - b. They care for you.
  - c. They challenge you spiritually.
  
2. Look for ways to meet the needs of your fellow members (14–15). How?
  - a. Admonish the lazy.
  - b. Encourage the discouraged.
  - c. Help the struggling.
  - d. Be patient with all.
  - e. Don't retaliate but respond with goodness.
  
3. Pray for your fellow members (16–18). How?
  - a. Rejoice in who God is and what he has done.
  - b. Depend continually on God to accomplish his plans.
  - c. Thank God for what he is doing in his church.
  
4. Discern carefully the truth (19–22). How?
  - a. Don't dismiss the power and work of the Spirit.
  - b. Test and accept that which is good.

**Main Idea:** Because he is coming again, Christ calls his followers to remain ready for his return by investing their time and efforts in their fellow church members.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

•Since this passage begins by calling us to remain alert and ready for Christ's coming, what tendencies have you seen in your own life that distract you from this or are causing you not live in readiness for his return? According to v. 8, how do we ready ourselves individually?

•In what ways can you show your appreciation and support for your church leaders? (vv. 12–13)

•Why does Paul place the meeting of needs of those struggling in the congregation on their fellow church members rather than simply on leadership? (vv. 14–15)

•In looking at how Paul calls believers to pray in vv. 16–18, in what ways does your prayer life need to change?

•How do we quench the Spirit (individually and corporately)? What should *testing all (prophecies) and holding to what is good* look like in our lives and church?

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