

## Reflecting on 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 (Part 2) October 11, 2020

**Introduction:** In this text, Paul offers a cluster of commands as he brings 1 Thessalonians to a close. The first set of commands deals with relationship within the Christian Community. The second, set in verses 16-18 creates a portrait of the Christian disposition. The three “brushstrokes” of this portrait come straight from the text:

1. Always Rejoice (16)
2. Never Stop Praying (17)
3. Give Thanks in All Circumstances (18)

In the end, the Big Idea of the text is as follows: *The Christian’s disposition is where we rejoice, pray, and give thanks no matter what this life brings our way.*

### **Up for Discussion:**

1. These three short verses (vv. 16-18) pack quite a punch. Which part of the message did you need to hear the most? What made *that* part important/meaningful to you?

2. What keeps a Christian from being truly joyful? To ask the question a different way, what is missing when a Christian does not maintain a joyful disposition?

3. Read the following verses about joy and rejoicing: Psalm 16:11; Romans 12:12, 15:13, Philippians 4:4; Galatians 5:22. Try to come up with a couple of statements about joy/rejoicing based on the truths you read in these verses.

4. Very few Christians are satisfied with their prayer lives. Use the list below to identify challenges or missing elements in your own prayer pattern. Discuss.

- being consistent in prayer
- finding time to pray
- truly fellowshiping with God
- praying and not feeling like God is listening
- praying and not seeing answers
- getting motivated to pray
- praising and giving thanks, not just asking
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the best advice you've ever received (from a message or from another believer) about prayer? Share it with the group.

6. What is the secret to giving thanks in all circumstances?

7. Read the following verses on giving thanks: Psalm 107:1; Colossians 3:15; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6. Choose one of these verses and explain its truth to the group, as it relates to thanksgiving.