



# 1 Thessalonians: *Living in Light of Christ's Return*

Part 9: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

## Introduction

### Paul's closing prayer in light of Christ's return (23-24)

#### ❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

##### 1. Paul prays the most important kind of prayer

- ❖ Ephesians 1:4— *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
- ❖ Ephesians 5:25— *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

##### 2. God is sovereign over our sanctification

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:23— *Now may the God of peace **himself** sanctify you completely*

##### 3. Paul prays that they might be sanctified COMPLETELY

- ❖ Philippians 1:6— *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.***
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:23— *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept **blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ***

##### 4. Paul prays that they might be sanctified in every part of their existence

##### 5. Paul's prays for their eternal security

##### 6. Paul knows for certain that all of this WILL be accomplished

#### ❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:24**

- ❖ 2 Timothy 2:13— *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself*

### Paul's closing requests in light of Christ's return (25-27)

#### ❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:25-27**

##### 1. Brothers pray for us



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- ❖ Ephesians 6:19-20— *words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak*

## 2. Greet the brethren in love

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:26— *Give a handshake all round among the brotherhood (Phillips)*

## 3. Have this letter read

## Paul's benediction in light of Christ's return (28)

- ❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:28**