

# 1 THESSALONIANS

## 5:1-28 | STUDY GUIDE

### Children of the Light

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1, "Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you." (ESV)

- Likely, the Thessalonians thought they did need something written to them!
  - Paul isn't dismissing their concern, but rather assuring them that they have what they need

1 THESSALONIANS 5:5, "For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness." (ESV)

- What this means is that they are on the winning side:
  - "But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation." (1 Thessalonians 5:8, ESV)
    - This assurance is echoed throughout Scripture. In the Gospel of John, 1:9 the apostle writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
- Likewise, Paul isn't suggesting the believers be complacent.
  - Arm yourselves—you have all that you need, "For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ..." (5:9)

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:14, "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."

- Manual work was very much looked down on in ancient Rome—viewed as the work of slaves.
  - Paul urges the church to respect and esteem hard work

1 THESSALONIANS 5:15, "See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone."

- More counterintuitive instruction
- Then verses 16-22 are a kind of list:
  - Rejoice ALWAYS
  - Pray CONSTANTLY
  - Give thanks in EVERYTHING
  - Do not quench the Spirit
  - Do not despise the prophecies
  - Test EVERYTHING
  - Abstain from EVERY form of evil
- This all is part of Paul's view of sanctification
  - Sanctification is not about working for salvation but rather working it out.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:27, "I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers." (ESV)

- Paul makes them promise to read this to ALL the brothers and sisters.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Fant, Clyde E, and Mitchell G Reddish, A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey, Jung Unchan, A Tale of Two Churches