

Until Jesus comes back...

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Focus on the return of Jesus Christ

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Assurance that Jesus is returning as King

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Paul introduces some eschatological concepts in these books

Assurance that Jesus is returning as King

Assurance that believers (both still alive and those who have passed on) will be part of the celebration of His return

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As we think about and await the return of Jesus, we are also called to set ourselves apart - be sanctified - so that we are blameless when the time comes.

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But instead, a hope-filled glimpse of what life for believers should be as we await the Lord's return.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 -24

"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all..."

1 Thessalonians 5:12 -24

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. **Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**"

1 Thessalonians 5:12 - 15

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Same word/concept Paul writes of in Romans 12:18
"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

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Recognize those who work among us
Appreciate and encourage

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Recognize those who work among us
Appreciate and encourage

Recognize those in spiritual authority and leadership
Appreciate, accept and encourage

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Shared responsibility in a fellowship

- Involves treatment of each other

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Warn those who are unruly

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- Impression that it is describing someone who is indifferent or defiant about responsibilities to one another and to the fellowship

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- Word used by John to describe how their friends treated Martha and Mary at the time of Lazarus' death as they waited for Jesus to come
- Can also be translated as "feeble-minded"
- Implication that when someone is weak, they need the care, advise and support of the fellowship

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Uphold the weak

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- *"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak..."*

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Be patient with all

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- Persevering patiently

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- Persevering patiently
- Not giving up on anyone

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Be patient with all

- Persevering patiently
- Not giving up on anyone
- All in the fellowship

1 Thessalonians 5:12 - 15

Don't let anyone seek revenge - and more

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- Don't stand passively by

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Don't let anyone seek revenge - and more

- Don't stand passively by
- Pay back what good is owed

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Don't let anyone seek revenge - and more

- Don't stand passively by
- Pay back what good is owed
- Keep promises to one another

1 Thessalonians 5:12 - 15

Pursue what is good for you and for others

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- What is
 - Pleasant
 - Useful
 - Honorable

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Pursue what is good for you and for others

- Intensely go after
- What is
 - Pleasant
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 - Honorable
- Not just for ourselves, but for one another

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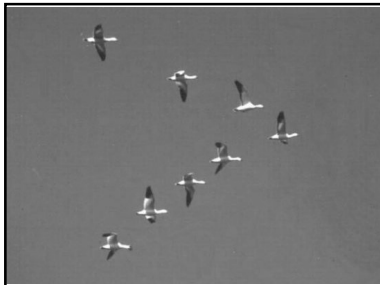
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These are things we do for one another



Let us commit to:

- Appreciating those who work
- Following those who lead
- Realizing our need to do our part
- Conserving energy so we all arrive safely
- Keeping track of everyone
- Communicating and coordinating
- Successfully traveling on this journey together