

FINISH STRONG

OH! JESUS IS COMING?
Look Out, Look In, and Listen Up
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Most important application = be really, really **NICE** to your **PASTOR**. v.12
As His return gets **CLOSE**, the times will get **CRAZY**. 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:1-5

LOOK OUT for people to **ENCOURAGE**. vv. 14-15

- Admonish the unruly = **DISCIPLINE** the thinking of the confused.
- Encourage the fainthearted = speak **DELICATELY** to the easily discouraged (small souled).
- Help the weak = **DELIVER** those in need.

Do it all **PATIENTLY**.

Someone who needs: discipline _____
delicacy _____
deliverance _____

LOOK IN for personal **EXPRESSIONS**. vv. 17-18

- Rejoice always = express **DELIGHT**. Even in the worst situation, Jesus is coming!
- Pray without ceasing = express **DESIRES** and **DEPENDENCE**. 1 Peter 5:7
- In everything give thanks = express **DANKBARKEIT**. What He did, doing, will do?

I need to express: delight for _____
desire for _____
danke for _____, _____, _____.

LISTEN UP for proper **EXHORTATION**. vv. 19-22

- Don't **DOUSE** = suppress guidance or conviction.
- Don't **DESPISE** = reject godly guidance.
- Be **DISCERNING**. Hold on to the **GOOD**. Throw away the **BAD**. 2 Corinthians 13:5, 2 Peter 1:10

Am I: dousing conviction about _____?
despising guidance about _____?
discerning regarding _____?

We can trust Him to make us ready to see Jesus. vv. 23-24

Life Group Discussion Questions – October 11, 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.*

DISCOVER (read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)

1. Paul identifies three groups that the brethren should appreciate. Who are they? Who are their counterparts at Auburn Grace?
2. What are the three things Paul is urging the church to do regarding church leaders?
3. Re-read vv. 19-22. What five admonitions does Paul give related to the Spirit and prophecies?

EXPLORE

1. In verse 5, Paul warns, "Do not quench the Spirit." What does that mean? In what ways have you "doused" a movement of God? Are you prone to doing that? How come?
2. How do the many commands in this passage relate to Paul's words in v. 23? Is there any connection? Why are these commands important?
3. Who are the difficult people Paul is referring to in verse 14? Without naming names, how should we deal with these kinds of brothers/sisters in our church?
4. Re-read vv. 16-18. How is it possible to always be in a state of joy, of prayer, of thankfulness? Does Paul mean this to be 100% of the time? Explain.

EXPERIENCE

1. The imminent return of Christ should have a purifying effect on our lives and should drive us to be ready for that moment. Being "ready" simply means to be Christlike. How does this purifying hope get right down into how you are living? Does it change your life at all? (see 1 John 3:3)
2. Paul wraps up his letter with a long list of commands. It's obvious that he believes that actions matter. Actions show others what is really in our hearts. Do you find any of these commands difficult to do? What will you do about it? How can your Life Group help?

PRAY

1. Why do you think Paul prays for sanctification?
2. Pair-up with someone in your Life Group. Throughout the week, pray for each other, especially for their sanctification. In times where you might naturally pray for yourself, take time to pray for the other person.