

LESSONS FOR LIFE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NIV)

Friday, December 15, 2017

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Advent is defined as the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event: the coming or second coming of Christ. During this notable event in the Christian church, Christians all over the globe prepare for the coming of Christ. As a school teacher of many years I have always stressed organization and preparedness to my students. As I was studying our passage I realized that Paul is giving us clear instructions as to how to "prepare" for the coming of Christ. This lesson will not only help us throughout the Advent season, but throughout our entire lives. I have put them into a "to do" list to help us get organized.

1. Be joyful always!
2. Pray all the time.
3. Give thanks no matter what.
4. Listen to the Holy Spirit within you.
5. Do not disrespect God's Word.
6. Hold on to good actions and thoughts.
7. Reject evil.

Do all of these things, and the promise is there... "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, We give You thanks for Your promises of everlasting life. Thank you for Your word. Allow Your Holy Spirit to work in us throughout this Advent season. Help us to be all You created us to be. We ask all of this in the name of Your precious son, Jesus. Amen.

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