

PRINCIPLES FOR HOLY AND HAPPY LIVING
I THESS. 5:16-18

Introduction:

- A. All mentally balanced people want to be happy.
 - 1. Some who love misery and who love to spread it.

- B. All spiritually balanced people want to be holy.
 - 1. "I'm saved but I love to do wrong."

- C. These commands of Paul aren't "fillers." A few extra lines to end an epistle.

I. PRINCIPLES FOR THE INNER LIFE.

- A. "Rejoice always."
 - 1. Written to a suffering people.
 - 2. pantote = duty to rejoice at all times.
 - 3. One of the distinctives of church.
 - 4. It is an outlook on life.

- B. "Pray without ceasing."
 - 1. pray = covers all forms of reverent approach to God.
 - 2. Without ceasing = adialeiptos = constant reoccurring prayer, don't quit the habit.
 - 3. Special prayer wheels, times, places, are not of Christ's teaching.

- C. "In everything give thanks."
 - 1. The difficult word is "everything."
 - 2. Paul practiced it. Acts 16:25 "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God."

- D. The Basis for such a command.
 - 1. "For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward."
 - 2. Does not mean these are the only things in God's will.

3. God's will "into you" the truth is to reach out and become operative in them.

II. THESE ARE COMMANDS TO ALL THE BODY, NOT PASTORS ONLY

- A. v14 "Now, we exhort you, brethren."
v12 "And we beseech you, brethren."
v11 "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another."
v27.
- B. The body is to be strong in every member.
 1. Weak and wicked members are the essence of our problems as a church.
- C. Just because the Church doesn't act is no reason to believe God won't!
 1. One reason for discouragement.
 2. I'm done trying to convince people who won't want to be convinced.