

Paul's First Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 5:16-28

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TITLE:

**“HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO WORSHIP”
AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST**

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

“We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 5:16-28

Everyone Close Your Eyes... Listen

“HEAVEN”

What Comes to Mind?

- Elevator Music
- Little, Naked, Fat, Baby Angels with Stubby Wings
- Harps and Angelic Voices

“GOD”

What Comes to Mind?

- He is Holy
- He is Angry
- He is Forgiveness

HEAVEN - It is a Place of Absolute **JOY**

GOD - is the reason for that **Joy** and the Giver of that **Joy**

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life and in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**So why then,
are we so often Joyless in life?**

“HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO WORSHIP“

Why Are We Gathered Here Together This Morning - Corporation as One Body?

- #1 Is to learn of God Together
- #2 Is to Further the Work of God Together
- #3 Is to Fellowship with the People of God Together
- #4 Is for the Worship of God Together (song - of course... but there is much more)

We Are to be Worshippers

True Worship, is the Response of the heart of a man or woman who has experienced the truth about God

John 4:23

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, **and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**"

Christian Worship is,

- #1 Biblical Worship - #2 It is a Spiritual Event. #3 It Affects your Life, #4 It Empowers you for Service, #5 It prepares you for Heaven.

I can tell you when I am the most Joyful

- It is when I do not have a care in life

**(JACK, WAKE UP
AND SMELL THE COFFEE, FACE THE MUSIC, HAVE A REALITY CHECK)
YES - you're right!**

I will begin to see that "My Life Here and Now is Positioned toward Heaven"
We think about Heaven, about Jesus, About the Lord, About Him
(All our Days we are Now "God-Minded")

1 John 1:3

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; **and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

We Are To Be, As Christians "A Worshiping People" because we are first "Joyful People".... Because We have come to recognize the value and worth of the one whom we worship - that produces JOY

John 15:11

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 16:24

"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Nehemiah 8:10

for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

* Joy GRK 5479 chara (khar-ah')
a deep seated cheerfulness, a strong and calm delight:
free from "happenstance"

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO WORSHIP"

1.) Is by Being Thankful to God vv. 16-18

Verse 16-18

Rejoice always

I want to do these things

It's the Adverbs Connected to these
Exhortations that get me

Rejoice **ALWAYS** Pray **WITHOUT CEASING, IN EVERYTHING** Give Thanks

#1 what does it mean to Rejoice ALWAYS ?

#2 what does it mean to Pray WITHOUT CEASING ?

#3 what does it mean to IN EVERYTHING Give Thanks ?

The Christian who walks in the fellowship of the Spirit (that is a moment by moment awareness and communion with the Lord, will see the events of the day through Gods eyes)

To Rejoice always

Comes from the Fact that we have tasted a little bit of what **Heaven** is Like

To Rejoice always

Comes from the Fact that we have tasted a little bit of what **God** is Like

1 Corinthians 2:9

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

What He has prepared is less than Who or What He is.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him

God has revealed Enough of Who He is.... (taste) so that we might hunger for more of Him...

Like Salsa & Chips

When Our Joy is Gone,
we can be sure that our focus is wrong....
and there is never an excuse for us being Joyless --

Verse 17

pray without ceasing,

* **Ceasing** GRK 89 **adialeiptos** (ad-ee-al-ipe'-toce);
without intermission. The reoccurrence of the waves. To be
perpetually coming

THE MEANING OF IT, IS THIS...

"we are to be engaged in one, life-long, uninterrupted, conversation with God,
- a continuum that began the day you met Him"

the meeting of two loves

What it suggests is the first meeting of two people who fall in love with each other - what follows is one life-long, uninterrupted, conversation with each other

- a continuum that began the day you met”

IT IS NOT A CHORE. NOR AN OBLIGATION

It's the beat of your heart, It's the very thing that you desire to do above all things - is to be with Him!

IT'S A BLESSING TO HAVE HAPPEN

it's the meaning to Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself also (be soft and yielded) in the LORD,
and He shall give you **the desires** of your heart.

If you are Open to the Lord - He will give the Desires of Your Heart

Psalm 21:2

You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld
the request of his lips. (JOY PRODUCES WORSHIP)

Psalm 145:19

He will fulfill the desire of those who are in HONOR of Him;

NOW verse 16 prepared our hearts for verse 17
That is - That Prayer is a natural outflow of rejoicing...

“Praying Always - is Worship”

Prayer Takes on Many Different Forms

There are **audible** Prayers, There are **silent** Prayers, There are **personal** Prayers
There are **public** Prayers, There are **prepared** Prayers, There are **Spontaneous** Prayers

- There are prayers offered to God with Understanding
- There are Prayers offered to God without Understanding

A Young Couple met with me this week and I asked the young lady... “He’s a pretty quiet guy, can you handle the quiet? “O’ yeah, I can talk to myself for hours” - - **That’s the Practice of Praying Always (Being Mindful of God)**

I can Talk to God for Hours (24 hours) • because He’s right in front of me. • He is with me. • He is all around me. • He’s in Me !!!

How Do You Know for sure That You're Really His ?
(isn't there a deep seated awareness that you're His)

Romans 8:16

It is The Spirit Himself that bears witness with our spirit
- that we are in fact children of God,

THE GIVING OF THE SPIRIT

John 14:16

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may
abide with you forever--.... 17 ye know him; for **He** dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. :18 "I will
not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Verse 18

**in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

SATAN DESIRES US TO BE UNTHANKFUL !!!

An Unthankful Heart is a dying Heart

Romans 1:21

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were
thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their
foolish hearts were darkened.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT;

An Unthankful Heart comes from a Wandering Eye

A Thankful Heart Never Complains

(America has become the most Unthankful Nation in the world - all she does is complain)

"Lord we just thank you for this dinner tonight - Amen.
This is the worst meatloaf I've ever had - God forgive Us!

Not Us... We are **bound** to "Give Thanks"

I see you in this "Crisis" Lord

This will turn-on your walk
when you expect to see God in every thing

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

Psalm 50:23

He who gives a sacrifice of thanks, honors to me, he (the worshiper) prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."

“HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO WORSHIP“

2.) Is by Being Careful about Worship vv. 19-22

Apart from God’s word we have no Instruction

**Worship That Ignores the Bible,
cannot be Spiritual worship**

John 4:23

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, **and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**"

John 17:17

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Verse 19

* quench GRK Do Not extinguish the fire

The Holy Spirit is here symbolized as a fire..

1. Fire for Warmth - Love of the Brethren
2. Fire for Light - understanding
3. Fire for Power - energy for ministry
4. Fire for Judgment - cleansing of Sin

The Holy Spirit at Work in the Church will Result in the Melting Together of the Members into One Body and in the purging out of Sin

“The Devotional Fire Must Not Go Out Upon The Altar of Our Hearts”

2 Timothy 1:6

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you (move the burning coals around until there is a fire again)

Do not quench the “S”pirit. (Holy Spirit)

The Word-Faith Movement!

- God wants you wealthy
- God wants you rich
- God wants you to be never sick
- God wants your will to be done (Kenneth copeland)

The Word Faith Movement is the religious form of the New Age Movement
(dedicated to the creation of your own reality for personally gain)

Do not quench the “S”pirit. (Holy Spirit)

The Ushers will Gladly Quench Your spirit if your worship is not Biblical

(in other words - if after watching TBN - you want to bark like a dog, roar like a lion or scream like an eagle - go the zoo! But do not do it in church)

1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

You can all the **emotion** - you can all the **commotion** but if it's not biblical you are not worshipping God is Spirit and In Truth

1 Corinthians 14:32-33

the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. :33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the of the saints.

Verse 20

The “Prophesying” here is not “What does the Future Hold” but the Heralding forth of God’s word. **The Proclaiming of Divine truth**

Verse 21

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: 2 (HERE’S THE TEST-EXAM) Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, :3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. (HERE’S YOUR GRADE IF FAILED THE TEST-EXAM) this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

“HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO WORSHIP”

3.) Is by Being Faithful in Conduct

vv. 23-28

We will Become Like the Gods We Worship

Living at the Altar, Will Altar your Living

Worshipping at the Altar will Change Your Life

Verse 23

Sanctification is found in three forms in the Bible

1) Soul - Showing Us Our Need to Be Born Again

1 Peter 1:2

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in
sanctification of the Spirit, (GOD HAS HAD HIS EYE ON YOU ALL ALONG)

OUR NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN

2) Spirit - Position Sanc. We're as saved as ever

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

3) Body - Christian Maturity, Growing Deeper

John 17:17

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

When will the three steps be complete
and when will I be the new man in totality ?

1 Thessalonians 5:23

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.

Application

1.) Be Ready to give Thanks

vv. 16-18

Feed upon the Lord!

The more you take in of the Lord, the Greater your diet becomes for the Lord

Look Upon the Lord

it will become a practice of your heart and mind to see Jesus in everything because He's with you everywhere!

Walk with the Lord

Galatians 5:16

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25

If (since) we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Most of us learn early to react to a situation

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ (Bible) dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms (expressions to God) and hymns (worshipful songs) and spiritual songs, (music that points your eyes heavenward) singing (outwardly affected) with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The Overflow of the Spirit is the Fruit of the Spirit

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. :38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (innermost being) will flow rivers of living water.".....:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

2.) Be Careful at Worship

vv. 19-22

Be Biblical and Stay Biblical in your worship of God
(Read 1st. & 2nd. Corinthians Carefully and Learn what to do
and what not to do at Worship)

test the spirits, acts 17:11

If the preceding things are being pursued, Our conduct will follow

**We Often think of the Christian
as one who will inevitably Backslide away from God from
time to time - this is wrong and it is wrong to assume
that**

(Well if the marriage works it works but if not - O' well)

The Backslide is Built in

2 Peter 1:5-8

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; :6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; :7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. :8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective (barren) and unproductive (unfruitful) in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ....:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things **you will never FALL**

Jude 1:24

Now to Him who is able to keep you
from stumbling, and to present you faultless
before the presence of His glory with
exceeding **joy**,