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Overlying Theme: “Christ Wants You” --- Joy, Prayer, and Gratitude

Scriptural Theme:

Always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

to you Joy, Prayer, and Gratitude



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The First Letter to the Thessalonians was the first letter Paul wrote, and probably the first New Testament letter of all. (Written around 50 A.D.) In the first half, he writes of his earnest yearning to meet with the brethren of Thessalonica, who, being persecuted, were pulled apart from one another like orphans. (Ch.2, v.17) Always being close to them in heart, Paul writes, “For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?” (v.19) Near the end of the letter he writes, “Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Paul, who at one time proud in himself persecuting Christians in the name of the law, changed completely when he met and became a servant of Jesus, into one overflowing in joy and proud to suffer for God’s glory and hope. In the joy of the Lord, he advised the brethren who carried their own sufferings of being apart, to “rejoice, pray and give thanks” because it is the will of Christ.

We also are not always able to worship with one another. Some are sick, some aged, and as a result may have to worship in solitude. Some brethren struggle and yet, cannot attend physically due to location. We also remember those who carry daily burdens of caring for others in facilities or on farms. Although not able to attend Sunday worship, there are those who present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is their spiritual worship. (Rom. 12:1) For these we should give deep thanks, rejoicing and praying together.