

Seven Great Admonitions

No. 192

Introduction.

I. I would like to invite your attention to the reading of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.

1TH 5:16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

II. In this passage we read of “Seven Great Admonitions.”

A. These admonitions were originally written to the Christians at Thessalonica, but are binding on Christians of every age.

B. Let’s briefly examine each one.

I. “**Rejoice Always**” - Paul begins with the simple words “rejoice always.”

A. This is a very brief admonition, but a very powerful and needed one.

B. Christians are not to be miserable, but happy, joyful. (Rom. 12:12; Phil. 3:1, 4:4).

C. There are many reasons why Christians are to rejoice..

1. We are no longer in darkness. We are no longer slaves to sins. We no longer must live in fear of the grave or condemnation. We rejoiced because we are saved. Our passed sins were washed away by the blood of Jesus, and Jesus even forgives us of our daily sins.
2. We rejoice because we have God as our Father, Jesus as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit as the earnest of our inheritance.
3. We rejoice because we are members of the family of God and enjoy all its blessings and challenges.
4. We rejoice because **Jesus is coming again** and we will be with Him forever. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

1TH 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the

trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Recently a friend sent me an email that stresses the kind of attitude God wants us to have.

About John

John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, 'If I were any better, I would be twins!'

He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Questioner: Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up and asked him, 'I don't get it!'

'You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?'

John's Comment

He replied, 'Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or...you can choose to be in a bad mood . I choose to be in a good mood.' Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or...I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it.

Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or...I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life

Questioner: 'Yeah, right, it's not that easy,' I protested.

John's Comment

'Yes, it is,' he said. 'Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life.'

Questioner

I reflected on what he said. Soon hereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a

communications tower.

After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back. I saw him about six months after the accident.

Questioner and John

When I asked him how he was, he replied, 'If I were any better, I'd be twins...Wanna see my scars?' I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

John's Comments

'The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter,' he replied. 'Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or...I could choose to die. I chose to live.'

Questioner : 'Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?' I asked.

John's Comments: He continued, '...the paramedics were great.

They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man'. I knew I needed to take action.'

Questioner: 'What did you do?' I asked.

John's Comment

'Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me,' said John. 'She asked if I was allergic to anything 'Yes, I replied.' The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity''

Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'

Questioner

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude...I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

Life is a choice.

We can choose to be in a good mood or a mad mood.

We can choose to be happy and to be unhappy.

We can choose to be content or discontent.

We can choose to rejoice or not to rejoice.

Paul said. "Rejoice always."

Jesus said. (Lk. 10:20).

II. **"Pray Without Ceasing"** - Paul next instructs us to pray without ceasing.

A. **Childhood impression.** This does not mean we pray every minute of the day.

B. It does mean we are to be devoted to prayer. (Col. 4:2; Rom. 12:12).

C. **It is important that we pray every day.**

1. We should pray at meals. We should pray privately. We should pray with others. We must not lose faith in prayer. We must never grow tired of praying for our needs and for others.

2. God will answer our prayers. (Psa. 84:11; Matt. 7:7; 1 Pet. 3:12; 1 Jn. 5:14, 15).

III. **"In Everything Give Thanks"** - We are to give thanks in everything.

A. Job said. (Job 14:1). We certainly have troubles in this world, but we are not to grumble and mumble and complain. **Israelites - Grumblites, mumblites.**

B. We should not count our troubles, but our blessings. (Psa.95:1-5).

1 O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the Lord is a great God, And a great King above all gods, 4 In whose hand are the depths of the earth; The peaks of the mountains are His also. 5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 ¶ Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

IV. **"Do Not Quench The Spirit"** - We are to quench the Spirit.

A. **Not our human spirit.** The word "Spirit" refers to the Holy Spirit. The word "quench" means to extinguish. We are not to extinguish the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

B. The Holy Spirit dwells in us. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 4:6).

C. The Holy Spirit uses the word to direct our lives. (Eph. 5:18,19; Col. 3:16).

D. It is vital that we listen to the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:16-23).

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy,

outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

V. **“Do Not Despise Prophetic Utterances” - We must not despise prophetic utterances.**

- A. “Prophecy” is inspired teaching - past, present, future. It is nothing more or less than the truth - the word of God - the gospel.
- B. Some despise prophecy because they are **embarrassed by God’s teaching.**

Creation	Marriage - a man and a woman	Sound Doctrine
Jesus is only way to heaven	Homosexuality is sin	Women not permitted to teach or exercise authority over man.

- C. Others despise prophecy because **they like to do their own thing.** (Prov. 14:12; Matt. 7:21).
- D. Paul means here we are to love the truth. (Jude 3; Psa. 119:97).

VI. **“Hold Fast To That Which Is Good” - We are to hold fast to that which is good.**

- A. Some scorn goodness, and maintain good is in the eye of the beholder.
- B. Paul teaches there is **absolute good.**
 - 1. It is easy to compromise good or drift away from it.
 - 2. We must hold fast to good regardless of the consequences. (2 Tim. 3:12).

VII. **“Abstain From Every Form Of Evil” - We are to abstain from every form or kind of evil.**

- A. Some people are real careful in some areas of life and real careless in other areas of life.
- B. Paul does not want us to condemn some sins and wink at others.
- C. We are to avoid evil in all forms. (Rom. 12:9).
- D. We should guard our **words** and **thoughts** and **actions.** (Psa. 19:14; 1 Cor. 10:31, 32).

Conclusion.

- I. Beloved we need to read this passage often and apply these **“Seven Great Admonitions”** to our lives. This will bring rich blessings to our lives and God will be pleased.
- II. As we close this lesson on Christian living, we would like to invite any who are not Christians to obey Jesus this day. The Christian life is the best life. You can become a Christian by confessing your faith in Jesus and by being baptized. We invite you to come to Jesus now. Come as we stand and sing.

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