

## Take 5!

5 Verses, 5 Questions, 5 Minutes!

### Words to the Wise

By Mary Kane

[www.onlybyprayer.com](http://www.onlybyprayer.com)

Please take a moment to ask your Father in Heaven to open your heart to the truth of His Holy Word and read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-19.

#### **According to verse 15 what are to do and not do?**

I once heard that Satan pays back evil for good; that man pays back evil for evil and good for good; but that God pays back good for evil and good for good.

Behind the word *render* in the Greek is the idea of paying back to someone what you rightfully owe them. Someone may truly deserve vengeance for an act against you, but God's Word commands us to repay the debt with *good*; as a matter of fact we are to *pursue* good for all. The word *pursue* used in verse 15 means "to seek after eagerly." Ouch! I am reminded of how short I fall of the glory of God. I can't recall ever *eagerly seeking* the good of someone who did me evil.

Please read verse 16 again.

#### **Please list three things you have to rejoice about today:**

Our biggest reason to rejoice is because our names are written in Heaven (Luke 10:20)!

### **What are we to do according to verse 17?**

We are to *pray without ceasing*. Think for a moment about what things our bodies do without ceasing...our hearts beat, our lungs breathe, our brains maintain all of our bodily functions. Tasks that our bodies do without ceasing are vital to our physical lives; we could not exist without them. In the same way praying without ceasing is vital to our spiritual life.

Do not stop praying for that loved one, for that sick child, for that wayward friend, for the suffering and the lost. If God commands us to pray continually, it must be because our prayers are greatly needed.

### **What is the will of God for us in verse 18?**

To give thanks in everything...the good... the hard...the blessings...the struggles. Give thanks in everything. This does not mean that all things are good, but that all things will ultimately be used for our good; things that the Evil One meant to destroy and defeat us can be used to bring God glory.

### **What final command are we given in verse 19?**

Just as the Lamp in the Old Testament tabernacle was to burn continually (Exodus 27:20-21), we are to burn continually as lamps with the fire of the Holy Spirit, blazing for all the earth to see!

Pursue good always, rejoice always, pray always, give thanks always, burn always!

Thank you for sharing this lesson with me. It is a privilege. He is worthy!

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