

- I. Relationships: live in peace. (12-15)
  - A. With your leaders. (12-13)
    1. How?
    2. Why?
  - B. With each other. (14)
    1. Admonish the idle
    2. Encourage those who are losing heart
    3. Help the weak.
    4. Be patient as you help one another.
  - C. With outsiders. (15)
- II. Attitudes: God’s will for your disposition. (16-18)

Key characteristics: consistent & constant

  - A. Rejoice always
  - B. Pray incessantly
  - C. Give thanks in all circumstances.
- III. Responsiveness: don’t resist the Spirit’s work (19-22)
  - A. Do not quench the Spirit.
  - B. Do not despise prophecies.
  - C. Test everything.
    1. Future declarations must come true. (Deut 18:21-22)
    2. Speak God’s words, not their own ideas, or other’s words. (Jere 23:16, 30b)  
God’s word (Jere 23:28-29)
    3. Will never discount or reject Jesus. (1Cor 12:3; 1Jn 4:1-3)
    4. You’ll recognize false prophets by their fruit. (Mt 7:15-20)
    5. No other gospel. (Gal 1:8)
  - D. Hold fast what is good.
  - E. Abstain from every form of evil.
- IV. He will do it! (23)

We live it. He does it.

**How does this apply to me?**

## **Historical Timeline:**

This letter was probably written within just a few months of Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians. He was still living in Corinth when he wrote this letter to them. Further reports had come to Paul highlighting certain concerns that continued to fill the minds of these believers. Some of their questions had apparently been triggered by a false communication they had received, purporting to be in Paul’s name, which had claimed that the day of the Lord had already come. As they were thrown into confusion, Paul wrote to them once again, further explaining the truth of the return of Jesus and calling them to an active life of service for Jesus until His return.

## **Passage Overview:**

The steadfastness in faith that the Thessalonian believers exemplified in the face of persecution was evidence of the justifying, redemptive work of God in their lives. God Himself would enable them to live worthy lives of their calling in Christ, even though living for Him, in their particular environment, exposed them to great affliction. But Paul encouraged them to look with anticipation to Jesus’ return, when He would punish their persecutors and bring relief to His people.

They need not fear that the day of the Lord had come and had left them behind. That day could not come until the simmering pot of rebellion and lawlessness had bubbled up with the appearance of the “man of lawlessness”. This individual would claim to be deity and would oppose any worship that wasn’t directed towards him.

But his destruction would be swift and complete at the return of the Lord Jesus. Jesus’ just judgment will bring great condemnation upon all who did not believe in Him, as they pursued unrighteous pleasure instead of truth.

**Reading for Next Week:** 2 Thessalonians 1:1 – 2:12