

# Sermon Outline

## GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS ... | Geoff Lin

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

### Until He Returns ...

1. A faith known everywhere (1:1-10)
2. Not without results (2:1-16)
3. Standing firm in the Lord (2:17-3:13)
4. How to live in order to please God (4:1-12)
5. When dying = sleeping (4:13-5:11)
6. God's will for you in Christ Jesus (5:12-28)

### 1. How to treat each other (vv12-15)

1 Thess 5:12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters,

to **acknowledge** those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.

**Live in peace** with each other.

14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters,

**warn** those who are idle and disruptive,

**encourage** the disheartened,

**help** the weak,

**be patient** with everyone.

15 **Make sure** that nobody pays back wrong for wrong,

but always **strive to do** what is good for each other and for everyone else.

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### 2. How to treat God (vv16-22)

1 Thess 5:16 **Rejoice** always,

17 **pray** continually,

18 **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 **Do not quench** the Spirit.

20 **Do not treat** prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all;

**hold on** to what is good,

22 **reject** every kind of evil.

i. what to do (vv16-18)

1 Thess 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified ...

ii. what not to do (vv19-22)

1 Thess 4:7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

1 Thess 1:4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

### 3. What happens when we fail ... (vv23-24)

**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:** "a distant creator who desires humans to be nice and fair to one another and who intervenes in human experience only when called on to bestow blessings or resolve problems. The purpose of life is happiness, self-fulfillment, and a degree of goodness sufficient for entrance to heaven" (Setran & Kiesling, *Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood*, 2013)

Q. Is this a fair assessment?

1 Thess 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

- appeasing the Judge vs pleasing our Father

- a Christian prayer of confession

### 4. Paul's final word (vv25-28)

1 Thess 5:25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us. 26 Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

What I've learned (and my response)