



Digital Bulletin

1 Thessalonians 5:11-15 | A Primary Purpose of Scripture | 12.28.25

Big Idea: The New Year arrives soon, and though we might not all make resolutions, it's a great opportunity to reflect on our lives. GOD calls us to examine our lives on a regular basis, and this is done through prayerful study of Scripture. God's Word is an incredible gift; the importance and value of Scripture cannot be overstated. It brings numerous benefits that are available to every believer, and that's something to be excited about as we enter 2026!

Three reasons New Year's Resolutions are abandoned: (Quitter Friday)

1. Unrealistic goals
2. Poor planning
3. Lack of support

Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain* **re: Philippians 3:13-14**

Three Steps for Spiritual Change:

1. Have A Plan Commitment
2. Follow the Plan Discipline
3. Share the Plan Accountability

- **1 Peter 5:7** *Cast your care on GOD, for He cares for you*
- **Psalms 34:18** *The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,*
- **Prayer is what GOD** uses to take promises that are in print and make them meaningful to our mind and heart!

1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

My Responsibility to God's Word: (1) Read It (2) Study It (3) Meditate on it (4) Memorize it (5) Apply It (6) Share it

Benefits of being a Student of Scripture:

1. God's truths are revealed **Psalms 119:18, John 16:13, 17:17, 18:37**
2. Satan's lies are exposed **2 Corinthians 2:11, 4:4, 11:14, John 8:43-44, Ephesians 6:11**
3. Our hearts are searched **Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 139:23-24, 1 Thessalonians 2:13**
4. Christ's grace is increased **1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 2 Peter 3:18**

- Transforms how we think and feel about GOD.
- Deepens our gratitude and adoration for what Christ has done for us.
- Increases our understanding and desire for GOD's will for our lives.
- Develops a genuine love for both believers and non-believers.
- Heightens our expectation of Christ's return!

"God uses the Word to enable us to see the sin and unbelief in our own hearts. The Word exposes our hearts; and then, if we trust God, the Word enables our hearts to obey God and claim His promises." Re: **2 Timothy 3:16-17** -- Warren Wiersbe

There is no greater insight into problem-solving than by having one's motives and desires of the heart revealed.

Re: **Hebrews 4:12-13**

- **Scripture doesn't just** provide life-enhancing information. It **equips** us to comfort and encourage one another. **Selah**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:18** *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** *Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:5-10 *You are all sons (daughters) of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.*

2 Timothy 2:3-4 *You therefore must endure **hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.* Re: **Ephesians 6:10-17**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ **compels** us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

A commitment to Christ's church isn't without challenges!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Responsibilities to the pastors | vss12-13 |
| 2. Responsibilities to fellow members | vss14-15 |
| 3. Responsibilities to themselves | vss16-22 |

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.*

- Warn (confront) the unruly.
- Seek to honor GOD with your **motives**, timing, and wording when confronting others.
- Comfort the fainthearted (those who have lost heart, the discouraged).
- Help the weak.
- Be patient to **all** and don't return evil for evil (don't seek revenge).

If Christ is who He claims to be, and if Scripture is GOD's Word, then we would expect hope to be experienced – and it is!