

Waiting for the Son (1 Thessalonians)
Keeping on, keeping on, until Jesus returns

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 *New International Version (NIV)*

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.

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.

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. 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.

1. The Tsunami that never happened

TSUNAMI TO HIT SYDNEY - 20TH SEPTEMBER 2018

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My (Holy) Spirit on all flesh, your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17)

The Spirit of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Only Jesus knows the end from the beginning for He alone is God; the Alpha and the Omega. "I have declared the former things from the beginning; they went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass." (Isaiah 48:3)

For many years Christ Jesus has been speaking to His people, who are born again of His Holy Spirit, through visions and dreams warning them of an awful devastation to befall the city of Sydney. From Newcastle to the north to Nowra in the south a Tsunami of such magnitude is going to hit the coastline that up to 400,000 people are going to lose their lives.

- How do we respond to the end of the world?
- almost every chapter of the 5 chapters of 1 Thessalonians concludes with a mention of the event:
 - [Y]ou turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for **his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the **coming wrath**. (1:9-10)
 - ¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory **in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes?** Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed, you are our glory and joy (2:19-20)
 - ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father **when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones** (3:13)
 - ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words (4:17-18)
- See for today 5:23 (almost at the end!)
- Paul gives us some advice here for “keeping on” while waiting

2. “Keeping on” while we wait for the Lord’s return

a. Supporting leaders in our local church

- Our need for godly leaders
- Of course, not defined by “class” or “title” but by their work
- And bullying and abuse can never be excused
- But in other areas we must be prepared to support, not undermine
- See also:
 - Heb 3:17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.
 - (1 Tim 5:19) Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses

b. Every member a minister

- We are *all* to care for and (if needed) admonish one another

c. Not giving others what they deserve!

- Not repaying evil with evil, but doing good to all instead

d. Knowing the will of God- rejoice, pray, give thanks

- What is God’s will for me?
 - Holiness (1 Thess 4:3)
 - Rejoicing, prayer and thanksgiving
 - NB v 16 seems to be the shortest verse in the NT (in terms of Greek and taking into account the number of words!)
 - Living like this is what we were made for!

e. Testing and holding fast to the good

- Five injunctions in vv 19-21
 - Two things not to do – assume God won’t speak
 - Three things to do – test what is said, hold onto the good, reject evil

3. Paul’s prayer for the church

a. Holy Wholeness

b. He is faithful!

4. Caring for each other

a. Pray

b. Greet

c. Ensure God’s word is read by all

5. The Grace of the Lord Jesus