

Text:- Rejoice alway; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I Thess V: 16-18.

M. Union
1/21/50
Q.M.

Int:- Three precepts of these three verses may be called the standing orders of Christian church.

Circumstances may differ - duties prescribed are always binding upon them.

We are to rejoice alway, pray without ceasing, and in all things give thanks.

Peaceful or troubled - encompassed by friends or foes - but we must have the music of the gospel in our hearts in its proper key.

Let us look at these three rules in order.

I. Rejoice alway.

1. There are circumstances in which it is natural to rejoice, whether Christians or not. Youth with its gaiety.
2. There is much in O.T. to doubt God's love.
3. Nothing like in N.T. They never doubted his love. "Sorrowful yet always rejoicing."
4. The habitual disposition of each of us is to be joyful.

5. An dark days in trouble

II. Pray without ceasing

- 1, Prayer is the primary mark of the Christian. Said of Saul, He who prays not at all is not a Christian.
- 2, Pray without ceasing - cherish a spirit prayer - the sense of dependence upon God.

3. Few works that cannot be accompanied by prayer. Ministry, medicine, law, labor, etc.

4. Not easy to pray-forget God. Then failure of loss of temper, absence of joy, weariness, and discouragement. WE must be on our guard-

III. In Everything give Thanks.

1. Times when it is natural to give thanks. After recovery from severe illness, have escaped a great danger.
2. God has been good to all of us.
3. The Thessalonians had been visited by suffering and death. In everything give thanks. A place for thanksgiving here. "All things work together for good".
4. Illustration of man in China who received wire from home saying that his wife and children perished in San Francisco earthquake.

Conc. "The will of God in Christ Jesus". It is only a Christian that can do it. Jesus lived here long enough to teach us how. Jesus came among us that we might know God. The real will of the Father. "Has not Jesus given us peace with God and made us friends instead of enemies?" Is not that a fountain of joy too deep for sorrow to touch.

Give text in closing.