

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 5

Verse 15

1. A Christian is never to seek personal _____ for wrong suffered.
2. What **should** be the Christian's response? Romans 12:19-21 is a key passage on this subject.
 - As Christians, we can do exactly what our Savior did.
 - *"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."* **1 Peter 2:22-23**
3. In your life, you can choose to live by one of three principles:
 - The _____ principle: Do evil to those who do you good.
 - The _____ principle: Do good to those who do you good and do evil to those who do you evil. Luke 6:32-33
 - The _____ principle: Do good to those who do you evil.
 - *"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?"* **1 Corinthians 6:7**
4. The opposite of revenge is _____.

Verse 16

1. This is one of the shortest verses in the Bible: *"Rejoice evermore."*
 - The word *"evermore"* means "at all times."
2. Christians are very unique in that we can be _____, but also rejoicing at the same time.
 - *"As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."* **2 Corinthians 6:9-10**

3. Have you ever experienced this? Your flesh was sorrowful, but your spirit was rejoicing?
4. This comes from two things:
 - A knowledge of all the spiritual _____ you possess in Christ.
 - A strong faith, trust, and confidence that our suffering will turn to eventual _____ in eternity. Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Verse 17

1. There can be some potential misunderstandings about this verse.
 - It does not mean that all the Christian should do is pray and nothing else. This would be an _____.
 - It does not mean that we have to be on our knees in prayer twenty-four hours a day. This would be _____.
2. So, what does this verse mean in a practical sense?
 - It means that a Christian should stay in an attitude of prayer all the time.
 - It means that the Christian has a conscious awareness of his _____ of Christ all throughout his day.
 - It means that the Christian prays and depends on Christ _____ attempting to do anything.
 - It means that we should _____ praying faithfully until the day when our prayers turn to absolute praise in the presence of our Savior in heaven.