

**Series: The Model Church (12/12/18)**

**Title: The Coming Again of Jesus Christ,**

**Text: (1 Thes 5:11-28)**

*If Jesus returned to earth, would you want Him to find you where he found you?*

*If we believe that Jesus is returning to earth, that knowledge should radically change the life of the believer.*

*Last week we talked about; Knowing that Christ's Return is Eminent, how we as a Believers should behave in general.*

*Knowing that Christ's Return is Eminent, how should we as believer's behave in this church?*

### **A. Behavior toward the Leaders of the Church:**

**(Vs 12-13)**

*In view of the Lords Return, what should your behavior be towards the Leaders of the Church?*

*12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

**Labor~** Do more than "is Enough"

(1 Cor 15:58) Abounding in the Work of the Lord.

Labor to the point of Exhaustion, and still labor.

Toil to point of weariness.

This is the demand made of the minister.

His entire body & soul & Service, belongs to God & is to be poured into the lives of the people.

### **3 Exhortations to Believer in the Church:**

- Believers are to know the Leaders in the church  
(Vs12)

**Know Them~** To See them, don't ignore, neglect, ect  
To Know is Acknowledge, appreciate, respect & value.

(Heb 13:7) *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

- Believers are to Highly Esteem the Leaders in Love:  
(Vs 13)

*13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

With Affection for who they are, and Affection because of their labor. (Phil 2:29)

- Believers & Leaders are to be at peace among themselves.

Not to Criticize, Murmur, Grumble, Oppose them.

(Heb 13:17) *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

We are to Be ONE in the Lord:

(Gal 3:28) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Leaders are not to Lord over God's people, or to seek a position to fulfill their ego or pride.

All church leaders are to be fully committed to Christ. All church leaders are to perform the duties God has assigned them.

(1 Cor 14:33) *Not the author of Confusion.*

***What is your roll in relation to your church leaders?***

***What kind of schedule does your church leaders keep?***

***How can you pray for your church leaders?***

***What do you appreciate most about your church leaders?***

***I appreciate all of you?***

***What I appreciate most about our Church teacher's is their faithfulness & love for the children.***

*Knowing that Christ's Return is Eminent, how should we as believer's ...*

**B. Behavior Toward the Church Family (Vs 14-15)**

***14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.***

**5 Exhortations**

***warn them that are unruly=***

Those who were disorderly to the daily things.

Doesn't shoe up for work/school.

Those that show up late, leave early, don't work.

My friend relates a story.

During the Basic Training graduation:

Everyone marching in step perfectly.

Then A soldier in his group, b/c of heat exhaustion, was delirious marched off the parade grounds.

He broke rank, was not where they're supposed to be.

The Sight was obvious to all in the viewing stands.

**Too many believers are not where they belong.**

They belong in the ranks of the Lord in the church & Fellowshiping with other believers Serving the Lord, Ministering to other believers, reaching the Lord, Pour & needy.

**They must be warned & Admonished.** (Rom 15:14)

*And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

***(Vs 14) comfort the feebleminded -***

The Faint hearted, timid, those who lack courage.

Those that fear difficult situations:

They need comfort & Assurance.

(1 Cor 16:13) *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*

**(Vs 14) support the weak**

Those that are spiritually weak.

Those that succumb to spiritual temptation.

Those easily discouraged, burdened, led astray.

Those that are Physically weak from infirmity.

***They all, likewise need our support.***

(Rom 15:1) *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

**(Vs 14) be patient toward all men.**

Patient is the Opposite of being Short Tempered.

We are enjoined to be longsuffering and patient to all.

Consistently Patient.

Bear & Forbear

(Heb 10:36) *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

*“I will be patient with you, if you will be patient with me”*

***15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.***

***See that none render evil for evil unto any man***

It is understood that through out our lives, someone will do evil against us.

It is NOT our Place to SEEK Revenge.

We are responsible to each other, & responsible for how we respond to evil.

We are to be looking after each other.

We are not to retaliate against those that do evil.

If we mistreat an unbeliever, we lose all chance of reaching them for Christ.

If we mistreat a believer, we lose all chance of helping them to grow in Christ.

When we mistreat a person, our testimony is ruined with that person.

We lose opportunity to minister to them.

***but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.***

We thus are not only to do good, but to pursue it, both in the church as well as in the world.

This is the only way we can reach others, believers & non-believers alike.

(1 Pet 3:9) *Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

***Are you hesitant to behave unacceptably and bring reproach upon the Lord, the Church & yourself?***

*Do you find it is it easier to ignore problem areas, rather than deal with them?*

*What does God expect from you in those problem areas?*

*What are some ways you can comfort & Support other believers & non-believers?*

*Would you consider yourself to be a patient person?*

*What can you do to become even more patient?*

*Knowing that Christ's Return is Eminent, how should we as believer's ...*

**C. Behavior Toward God? Our Personal Behavior**  
**7 Exhortations that should Govern our Behavior toward God:**

Paul gave these to the church at Thessalonica.

As this letter was read in other church's the exhortation applied to them also.

As we read it today, in 2018, the same applies to us!

***16 Rejoice evermore.***

You can't rejoice evermore if you had to go through the Great Tribulation.

God has saved us, looks after us, & promised to work out our circumstances for our good. (Rom 8:28)

God has given us eternal life, and we shall be with Christ forever & ever.

The Believer who keeps his mind stayed on these facts can do nothing but Rejoice  
(Lk 10:20) *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

***17 Pray without ceasing.*** (Pray Always)

Prayer is God's ordained way for man to receive things from God.

God Moves, Acts, & Responds to Prayer.

Prayer is the Law that God has established Through out the Universe.

**Why?**

Prayer stirs fellowship & communion with God.

Prayer brings about a greater understanding of God.

It causes a person to know more about God.

It Stirs us to greater faith & trust in God.

It causes every good thing imaginable between God & man.

It is the primary method for man to communicate with God. (Matt 7:7) *Ask*

***18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

(Give Thanks in All Things)

How can we give God thanks for terrible things like accidents, disease, & death?

### **This is not what the scripture means.**

It means to thank Him for His presence and power as we walk through the trials.

In Christ there is Victory no matter how terrible the Trial.

IN Everything, not FOR Everything.

(Rom 8:37) *we are more than conquerors through him*

*this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

**16 Rejoice evermore.**

**17 Pray without ceasing.**

**18 In every thing give thanks:**

(Eph 5:20) *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

**19 Quench not the Spirit.** (Don't Suppress the Spirit)

### **3 Great Sins Against the Holy Spirit**

**Quench**~ stifle, snuff out

The Holy Spirit is always working in the life of the believer to lead him to do God's will.

The believer Quenches the Spirit's work by ...

Ignoring Him.

Neglecting Him.

Disobeying Him.

Procrastinating.

**Grieving the Spirit:** To Pain, To Vex, To Sadden.

(Eph 4:30) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We grieve the Spirit when we let impure things enter our lives.

When we behave immorally, act unjustly, allow or participate in anything contrary to the Holy Spirit.

### **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit:**

(Matt 12:22-30) Jesus cast out a demon from a boy. The Pharisees attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to that of Satan.

Basically, being convicted /Convinced by the Holy Spirit of the Truth of Jesus Words, they denied it.

(Matt 12:31) *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.*

### **Lying to the Holy Spirit:**

(Acts 5:3) *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*

(Acts 5:9) *Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?*

*behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.*

**Keeping Back** = Partial Commitment

**Keeping Back** = Deceiving the Church

**Keeping Back** = Allows Satan to fill the heart, instead of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

**Keeping Back** = Allows the heart to be filled with the lies of Satan to commit all to Christ

**Keeping Back** = Is Lying to the Holy Spirit.

The acceptance of persons, rather than God.

**Keeping Back** = Mocks God - He doesn't feel he needs to be honest with God.

**Keeping Back** = Damaged God's Testimony

So many are still suffering, dying, & living w/o Christ b/c believers don't commit all of Themselves & all They Have to God.

**Keeping Back** = Is Distrusting God to care for us.

(Lk 9:23) *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

**Keeping Back** = Is Trusting money rather than God.

(Jn 6:35) *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

## **Here are some examples of how individuals can Quench the holy Spirit in a Church:**

We saw this with the 10 spies in (Numbers 13:32).

*What kind of relationship do you have with the Holy Spirit?*

*Do you have a constant awareness of the Holy Spirit's Presence?*

*Would you honestly consider it as growing or as just There?*

*Would you consider it to be stagnant w/ only occasional stirrings?*

*If there are any short comings with your walk with the Holy Spirit, who's fault is it.*

***20 Despise not prophesyings.***

**The NT had not been written:**

(The Gift of Proclaiming the Gospel & predicting the future under the influence of the Holy Spirit.)

(1 Cor 14:3) *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

Based on God's Word, Proclamation & Prediction is included in the gift.

We are not to despise or minimize the gift, even though abused by some.

Prophecy closed out in the book of the Revelation. Nothing new is to be added.

***21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.***

(Prove) means to Test and Verify.

We are commanded to try the spirits whether they be of God.

*(1 Jn 4:1) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

Does it Agree with Scripture says directly?

Does it Contradict Scripture?

Does it Contradict the glory of God & His Character?

Both the gifts & behaviors of believers are to Tested & Verified.

We are not to blindly accept what people say.

Even if it is a Licensed, Ordained Pastor/Evangelist. Everything he says & does is to be tested, or proven by scripture.

**The only way to know truth from error is to know the scriptures.**

When a scriptural truth, or a person is proven, we are to hold fast to them.

Learn from him.

Learn from the Doctrine & practice it.

Teach it to others.

*(Heb 4:14) Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

***22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.***

Abstain from the very appearance of evil.

Any chance that it could be wrong, leave it alone.

If there is even a suggestion that it could be wrong, flee from it like Joseph did.

A Believer must have Absolutely NOTHING to do with evil.

*(Rom 12:9) Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

***Does your witness plant seeds or pull up tender saplings?***

***What does the scripture mean when it commands you to “Pray without ceasing”?***

***Is it possible to develop an unbroken spirit of prayer?***

***It what ways does this challenge the way you currently pray?***

***What does it mean to you to “give thanks in all things”?***

***Why is this difficult to do?***

*We are commanded to “Abstain from all appearance of evil”,*

*how do you decide where to draw the line?*

*Who keeps you accountable.*

**D. The Results of Proper Behavior: (Vs 23-24)**

*23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

**If a Believer will Behave properly, he would experience 4 things**

- Experiences the presence of the God of Peace: (Rom 16:20)

- Experiences Sanctification: Greatly blessed by God. “Wholly set a part” (Jn 17:17)

- The Believer has his Spirit, Soul, & Body preserved blameless in the Day of Judgement.

The believer is acceptable unto God & will receive a full reward.

(3 parts) tells us that our Whole Person is preserved.

The believer will live for eternity, but will be blessed according to these exhortations. (Phil 2:15)

- Experiences the Assurance of God.

God continues to work in the person until the day of judgement (2 Thes 3:3)

*Illus: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Striking for it's simplicity.*

*Etched in Black Granite are the names of 58156 Americans who died in that war.*

*Since its opening in 1982, it has stirred up great emotions.*

*Some walk its length reverently,  
Others stop at specific names & wipe away tears.  
(Son, Brother, Friends)*

*Robert Bedger, William Craig, Darrell Loush,  
Especially Painful. 3 of 12 names in error*

*B/c of data coding errors, each was incorrectly listed as KIA.*

*Perfect example of a Christian.*

*Dead to this world, but alive unto Christ.*

***How would your name be recorded on Histories Wall today?***

***Only a believer can experience the assurance of God, b/c he has died to self/alive in Christ.***

***Are you number among the living in Christ?***

**E. The Final Exhortation Re: Behavior: (Vs 25-28)**  
***25 Brethren, pray for us.***

Pray for your pastor and missionaries. **“US”**

(2 Thes 3:1) What difference your prayers make in this world.

***26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.***

To Greet with Care - To Express brotherly respect and Affection:

The Custom was Men kiss Men/Women, Women, and that on the cheek.

It is showing genuine affection for that person. Still today in the Middle East.

Affection and Care are to be expressed between believers. (1 Pet 5:14)

*Illus:* In Arkansas, the we merged the Brockington RD BC with Oakwood BC.

*They had a terrible testimony of infighting.*

*At least 2 churches had been created by a split off of Oakwood's tumultuous past.*

*The third church split started but fizzled out.*

*The SBC had not helped them to find a pastor for 5 years.*

*They were closing their doors.*

*When we merged the 2 churches, the people had been spiritually beaten down to the point they didn't want to fight anymore.*

*They were so happy to have a pastor who would love them that they would hug and kiss me.*

*They were so happy to have a church family that included new believers they would hug & kiss them too*

***How do you show the people of this church you care about them?***

***How do you greet people you see each week?***

***Is it just your expectation that everybody shows up?***

***Why express care, because they are supposed to be here?***

***27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.***

To be read to all believers.

Wasn't it going to be read in the service?'

Was some believers home bound or Traveling?

There were probably several small groups, meeting in secret b/c of the persecution.

We must see to it that every believer study the Word of God.

No one is to be excluded, but they are to study the word.

***What a Challenge:*** (Acts 17:11) Berean Christians

***28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.***

(Eph 2:8-10)

***Who are the ministers in your daily prayer?***

*Are you praying for your missionaries?  
What do you do to express your concern for them?  
What kind of a vision do you have for getting the  
Word out to non-believers?  
What ways can our church's out reach be expanded?  
What can you do personally to reach out to the lost?  
Are you ready for the Coming of the Lord?  
How you behave matters, You are an example to  
those who don't believe.  
They are watching our testimony closely.*

### How to Pray for your Pastor

- Monday:** Pray for the Pastor's family.
- God's Peace and Protection
  - A growing love relationship with his wife
  - Quality & Quantity time together
- Tuesday:** Pray for wisdom for your Pastor.
- The Mind of Christ
  - Godly decision making
  - Understanding Biblical truth
- Wednesday:** Pray for the Pastor's ministry focus.
- Clear Vision
  - Commitment to Biblical priorities
  - Work within his God-given gifts/strengths
- Thursday:** Pray for your Pastor's health.
- Protection of his body and mind
  - An extra portion of stamina & strength
  - Commitment to stress-releasing activity

- Friday:** Pray for your Pastor's spiritual growth.
- A heart for God and the lost
  - Fresh biblical insights
  - Personal devotions.
- Saturday:** Pray for your pastor's purity.
- Pure motives
  - Pure thought life/faithfulness to his wife
  - Pure commitment to complete integrity
- Sunday:** Pray for God's anointing on your pastor.
- Strength in leadership
  - Passion in his preaching
  - Fruit and joy in his ministry