Sermon Series: **Power of Thanksgiving**

11/29/26, "In Readiness," 1Thessalonians 5:1-23, MEV or NLT?

INTRODUCTION little league practice canceled, didn't know…

Jesus will return any time without warning.

We want Him to sanctify us (make us holy), help us be at peace & blameless. These instructions are in context of a local church.

MAIN IDEA: Be ready for Jesus (4-6). How? Here are 3 areas to be concerned about.

I. First, supporting leaders (12-13)

A. acknowledge our servant leaders (12)

Acknolwedge: to know; show appreciation for a person's true worth

1. **who work hard among us** (helping, encouraging, guiding)…***board, coordinators, pastors, teachers***
2. by showing them respect & love
3. because can become weary, discouraged

B. help them by being at peace with others in the body (13)

1. conflict distracts from mission
2. conflict divides, weakens, wearies

<u>ILLUSTRATION</u>: we go to non-coord re: ministry… STAND

II. Second, ministering to Christ's body (14-15)

A. seek to do good to all, according to need

1. **<u>warn</u>** (*reprove gently; caution*) the **unruly & lazy**
2. **<u>comfort</u> the discouraged**…*listen, don't guess*
3. **<u>support</u> the weak**…*with compassion, patience*
4. **<u>be patient</u> with everyone**…*knowing that each of us is being transformed*

B. do not render evil for evil…*bless, pray for, love, do good*

1. in the body…*helps keep peace & unity*
2. with unbelievers…*helps show Jesus*

<u>ILLUSTRATION</u>: contact the absent; when you pray for another

III. Third, being strong in the Holy Spirit (16-23)

A. by communicating with the Father (16-17)

1. **rejoicing in Him always**
2. **praying** (*conversing*) **continually**…*pausing & listening, seeking, asking (He's always there)*
3. **thanking Him in every circumstance**…*not for it, but for His help in it & His promise that He will use it for good for us (Romans 8:28)*

B. by being open to Him…*do not quench Spirit (19-21)*

1. to His moving & trusting Him
2. trusting others' experiencing His moving
   - that they have the Spirit
   - that He can witness to the unbelieving
3. not despising (or ignoring) prophecies…*God is speaking to us…instructing, exhorting, warning*
4. but testing all things & holding onto what is good (21)…*by His word, according to His character*

C. by abstaining from all appearance of evil (22)

1. weakens our Spirit walk…*nearing sin boundaries*
2. weakens other people's Spirit walk…*influence*
3. weakens Spirit witness…*unbelievers watching*

<u>ILLUSTRATION</u>: learning to recognize Spirit voice (worship ldr)

CONCLUSION: we tend to think of being ready for Jesus is a private thing, but God gave us the body to help us be ready. **Review**

ALTAR: Let us rejoice in God now, thanking Him—listening for His Spirit to speak to us…