

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
"Joyful Always, Praying Continually"

Intro: The Christmas season and singing about joy

-The infamous year of 2020: A tough year for many people to be joyful.

-The message I need to hear at the end of 2020: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing."

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Presupposes the sovereignty of God over all things.

1. We must recognize that the _____ of _____ must always be on _____ in our Christian lives.

-The command to 'rejoice always': Yet one more commandment that does not make me feel good about my observance of it.

-A crucial reminder: When our faith is lacking, our joy will also be lacking.

-A good reasons for Christians to rejoice: They are doing so much better than they deserve.

-A good reminder from God's word: Christians have been given a kingdom that is worth forsaking everything else for.

-J.I. Packer: "The Christian life is not a joyride, but it is a joy road."

-Our joy: Oftentimes a calculated response in the midst of difficult circumstances.

2. We must recognize that we are called by God to _____ in the realm of _____.

-Examples of living in the realm of prayer: Found in the 1st chapter of Colossians and the 2nd chapter of Nehemiah.

-The newborn child of God: Instinctively cries out to God.

-Our prayer lives: Reveal a lot about the spiritual health of our souls.

-One thing that we could never run out of: Reasons to pray.

-Personal Application: