***Lesson Twenty-Six***

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**3 Commands For The Christian Heart**

**1.** In v. 16-18 Paul begins a new section of instruction without any preamble or explanation. Instead, he abruptly gives **3 terse, rapid-fire commands** . . . ***rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.*** Define each of the following commands:

 ***rejoice*** (*chairō*—#5463)—

 ***pray*** (*proseuchomai*—#4336)—

 ***give thanks*** (*eucharisteō*—#2168)—

**2.** In each of these three commands Paul uses **3 absolute terms to describe how the commanded actions are to be carried out**. Paul commands that we are to ***rejoice always***, that we are to ***pray without ceasing***, and that we are to ***in everything give thanks***. What do the modifiers ***always***, ***incessantly*** and ***in everything*** teach us about these three commands?

 ***always*** (pantote—#3842)—

 ***without ceasing*** (adialeiptōs—#89)—

 ***in everything*** (*en—*#1722; *pas*—#3956)—

**3.** The first command, found in v. 16, is that we ***rejoice always***. What does this mean? How can we be expected to ***rejoice*** in the midst of suffering? Are there other passages of Scripture that help explain this command?

**4.** The second command, found in v. 17, is that we ***pray without ceasing***. What does this mean? How do you ***pray without ceasing***?

**5.** The third command, found in v. 18 is that ***in everything give thanks***. What does this mean? Are we to give thanks for the hardship and trials in our lives? For the heartache and suffering? Explain.

**6.** At the end of v. 18 Paul then provides the reason for issuing these commands . . . ***for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*** What does he mean? What, specifically, is ***God’s will for you*** and why is this ***God’s will for you***?

**7.** What are the ramifications if we don’t obey these commands . . . if we don’t ***rejoice always***, if we don’t ***pray without ceasing***, if we don’t ***give thanks in everything***?

**8.** What do these three commands teach us about living the Christian life?