***Lesson Twenty-Eight***

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**

**Cling To What Is Good—Avoid Every Form of Evil**

In the final two commands of this section (v. 19-22) Paul instructs the church to ***hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil***.

**1.** What does the command, ***hold fast*** (*katechō*—#2722) mean?

**2.** The command to ***hold fast*** is in the present tense and active voice. What is the significance of this grammatical construction in the meaning of the command?

**3.** The thing we are commanded to ***hold fast*** to is ***that which is good*** (*kalos*—#2570). What does this word mean? What falls into the category of ***that which is good***?

**4.** The second command is that we ***abstain from every form of evil***. What does the command ***abstain*** (*apechomai*—#567) mean?

**5.** What does the word ***evil*** (*ponēros*—#4190) mean?

**6.** In this command Paul uses the all-inclusive term, ***every form of***, in reference to the command to ***abstain from evil***. What is the significance of this command’s all-inclusive statement?

**7.** But in reading Paul’s commands, how do we determine **what is good and what is evil?** Who determines?

**8.** Christians often disagree regarding the value or worth of something. What is permissible to one person may be impermissible to another. For example, a former alcoholic looks upon alcohol as a terrible evil that once enslaved him/her. But does that mean that drinking alcoholic beverages is evil? Explain.

**9.** In his letters to the Romans and Corinthians Paul addressed the issue to eating meat that had been sacrificed to pagan idols (Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 8 & 10). Some Christians felt that it was sinful to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols, while others did not. How did Paul resolve this issue? (see Romans 14:13, 1 Corinthians 8:12 and 10-28-29).

**10.** What does Paul’s instruction to the church on the subject of eating meat sacrificed to idols teach us about the risk of a person unilaterally declaring something to be evil?