

Series: The Coming of the Lord; *Sermon:* **Asking and Urging**
delivered by Josh Moody, senior pastor, on March 28, 2021

Bible text explored: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

²⁵Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. This passage shows us how we can have peace in the midst of external pressure. It's easy to start fighting during seasons of stress. What's one of the main ways this passage tells us how we can have peace? (12-13).
2. How could respecting and esteeming pastors benefit the culture of a community – allowing it to be a place where everyone flourishes?
3. Christians are supposed to treat all people in a way that is fitting (14). We are called to be admonish, encourage, help, and be patient. Which of these is hardest for you? In what ways could your small group grow in these qualities?
4. Sometimes it's hard to know which category a person fits in (14), and therefore, it's hard to know how to help them. What are some ways we can grow in wisdom here?
5. Christians are called to rejoice always. What does that look like during difficult times? (16, 18)
6. What are some ways that have helped you cultivate a pattern of prayer? (17, 25)
7. Christians are called to greet each other like family. During this difficult season, what are some ways that we can provide family support for others in our church (26)?
8. What promise is this passage calling us to believe when we feel like we don't have the strength to carry on (23-24, 28)? How does that promise change the way we interact with all of the commands that come before?