

Always and At All Times

πάντοτε

1 Thessalonians 5:12-23



There is a Greek adverb [*pantote*] which means “*always, at all times.*” Its New Testament usage is very instructive as to those activities that demand our constant engagement. In the following verses, this Greek word is underlined.

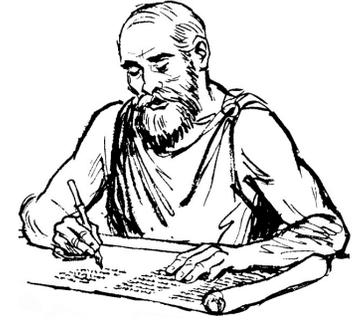
Prayer: “Men ought always to pray and not to faint” (Luke 18:1; Phil. 1:4; Col. 1:3; 4:12; Philemon 4). **Obedying:** “As ye have always obeyed” (Phil. 2:12). **Pleasing God** (as Christ did): “I do always those things that please Him” (John 8:29). **Rejoicing:** “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice....Rejoice evermore” (Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16). **Giving thanks:** Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 1:2). **Gracious speech:** “Let your speech be always with grace” (Col. 4:6). **Unbounding service:** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). **Pursuing the good:** “But ever follow that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:15). None of these things can be achieved of ourselves; **the victory must come from God** who “always causeth us to triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14). None of this is possible apart from **God’s enabling grace:** “God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8). In our weakness we have great **confidence**, knowing that “He ever liveth to make intercession for us” (Heb. 7:25). When our work is done, we have **the blessed hope** and happy expectation that we will be with Christ at all times: We shall “meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:17-18).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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