

District of Columbia Supplement
Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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From the Grand Commander's Apartment

The verses for today's lesson are from the following sources.

1 Thessalonians 5:5, 5:9-14, 5:18

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. 12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor amongst you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, and Be patient toward all men. 18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Gentlemen and Sir Knights,

I know you are reading this after the first of the year, but I am writing this after Thanksgiving, so it is possible my mood might be different that it would have been if I wrote this after the start of the new year. My mood is one of Thanksgiving and while the food was good (even though I am on a Keto diet, I was able to do quite well this year), I was surprised when my wife really wanted to take some time to discuss why we were thankful. She does not normally do this, because our lives seem to be ever moving in one direction or another, but this year as I am sure many of you are doing the same, life has forced us to make radical changes and afterward, perhaps it was best to think of reasons to be thankful.

I am quite sure that in 2021 many of us will be thankful to be out of 2020. Thinking of our lesson for this month, I can imagine Paul's emotion as he is telling Christians in Thessalonica to be thankful for many things. There are many reasons for Paul to write this letter as discussed in history, but his purpose in Chapter 5 was obviously to teach people the basics of Christian living, including the act of grace. Grace can have two meanings, one to forgive and the other to give thanks. I have to be honest; I have not kept up with my "Thank you" prayers. When I was in the military and far away from home, or going through troubled times, instead of starting a prayer asking the Lord to help me solve my problems, I would often start by telling the Lord, what I am thankful for. The Christians in Thessalonica were facing persecutions and concerned about sharing their faith. And yet... in times like this, Paul was concerned with showing thanks (among other things)... this hardly seems to be the reaction I would expect; to instead simply attack the problem they were facing. Paul chose the right course, for the solution to their problems was their faith in Christ and the Grace of our Lord. Why? It is simply the Christian way. Many of our brethren have lost a lot during this pandemic (I recently learned that a friend and client of mine died of COVID-19 this year). Others have gained something they'd lost before, perhaps a renewed relationship with a spouse or child, perhaps more time to maintain physical health, a greater appreciation for what we have and not what we want... The path to successfully getting past the pandemic will be faith in Jesus' love for us and the benevolence of the Father, our Lord. One final thought before closing. 2021 is a new start and with vaccines coming out, we should be well past this virus before the end of the year. I pray each of us will make it and get the vaccine as soon as we are permitted to do so and then we can see each other again, in person. God Bless and Godspeed!

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews

Grand Commander 2019-2020

**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
of the District of Columbia**

Send any queries to gcktdc@gmail.com