

Psalm 1: 1-3

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, **2** but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. **3** That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-22

Live in peace with each other. **14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

16 Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not treat prophecies with contempt **21** but test them all; hold on to what is good, **22** reject every kind of evil.

Short talk

Don't we all love good advice. We call or message friends or family for advice on cooking, childcare, gardening, all sorts of things. Maggie's advice to wear gloves while painting came a bit late for Chris and I yesterday and our hands were almost as coated with black paint as the church gates.

When it comes to advice on faith, friends and family are once again good starting places. They can suggest ways to read the bible, to pray, maybe even do those things with us, recommend good books or share their experience of living in faith through good times and bad.

Our two passages this evening provide some good advice for living as a family, a church family, as neighbours, as a village community. Any group we are part of will benefit if we ...

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be patient with everyone

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Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.