

Paul's *Letters to the* ***Thessalonians***



Lesson 4-Pure and Holy Living

Focus: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

- **God's call to purity and holiness (v.1-8)**
 - (v.1) The believers were to continue “abounding more and more”—to walk faithfully in the Lord and to grow more and more in their walk with God. This is what God expects of us. He calls us into the path of advancing holiness. We are to grow in Him and in the likeness of His character by His power and grace, ever seeking Him and making good choices according to His will.
 - (v.2-5) God's people, we, are not to follow in the patterns of this sinful and evil world. We instead are to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and His holy commandments. The will of God is “our sanctification.” In other words, God wants us to grow in His holiness! We should know how to “possess our vessel in sanctification and honor” (v.4). We should not follow the sinful lusts! Instead, those things should be “crucified” or put to a violent death. We must learn of God and His Spirit to walk in the pure, righteous, and holy way! (See Galatians 5:16-25 for a greater discussion of this issue).
 - (v.6-8) God has called His people to live pure and holy lives! He has NOT called us into a corrupt pattern of sinful deeds or wickedness—God will never justify such a course! If anyone despises this calling, they are not complaining against the words of man merely, but rather, against the words of our Holy God Himself. Let us not dare to venture upon such paths! We will all stand one day before His judgment seat. The God who has given us His Holy Spirit (v.8) has also enabled us by His power to be overcomers and to have victory over the sinful nature or corrupt passions! Amen! Praise be to God for such help!
- **Living a useful life for God and doing honest and faithful work (v.9-12)**
 - (v.9,10) True Christian love is a wonderful thing and we all need it “more and more”! God Himself teaches us to have such love! It comes as a gift from His Holy Spirit! God's love awakens our own love! He changes our hearts and minds with His great love! Just look at a few of His promises!!
 - He “...is Love” (1 John 4:8). His love is “...shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us” (Romans 5:5). Love is fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
 - It is “not that we loved Him, but that God loved us...” and sent His son... (1 John 4:10). This awakened love in our hearts, by the demonstration of His love. “He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
 - “God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you” (Jeremiah 31:3). God wants to give us a heart of love too (Ezekiel 36:25-27)—that's His promise!

- (v.11,12) There is dignity and righteousness in an honest day's labor. We should do our daily work faithfully and earn our keep. Taking care of others and ourselves. This is right and good! God Himself gave to man his daily work! The Lord knows that we need to have a daily work. We are to do it faithfully and not be "slothful" or lazy. The Bible does not support laziness at all! (ref. Gen. 2:15,19; Proverbs 6:6-11). We will not lack what is necessary for life if we faithfully labor each day. Also, we will be able to do our part in serving others and living honestly towards them.

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire to live a pure and holy life in Jesus Christ, and to meet Him peacefully at His coming?
