

## I Thessalonians Lesson 04

### I Thessalonians Chapter 4

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

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Memory verses for this week: *1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

**Introduction:** *Last week in Chapter 3, Paul spoke of how young Timothy had brought him tidings about the church's faith and love for the things of God and the love shed towards Paul. These there in Thessalonica were very dear to Paul, and he desired to see them face to face. He encouraged them to look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ which is the great hope of the Christian. Chapter 4 explains to us how we can get along with God, His Church, and one another.*

### I. Our Walk before the Lord

*1 Th 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*

*1 Th 4:2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.*

The Lord's desire is for the Christian to walk in a manner that pleases God so that we might abound more and more. We abound to greater blessings from the Lord, greater peace of heart due to doing what the Lord has commanded us. It is not a mystery what God desires of us.. his desires and commands for our life are clearly written down in the Word of God. As verse 2 says, the Lord Jesus Christ gave us the commandments, and his desire is that we walk in obedience to those commands.

*1 John 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.*

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.*

*John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*1 Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

*1 Th 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Ghost comes into us and takes up his abode. We should live in such a manner to honor and glorify the Lord. It says in verse 3 that is the will of God that we sanctify our bodies and abstain from fornication. Sanctify means to set apart... to be different and living in such a way as to honor God. It is God's will that we honor him with our bodies, and possess our vessel in such a way that it shows we are different from the world. This is not an easy task, and it comes down to being able to walk according to the spirit.

The spirit and the flesh war one against the other, and there is a constant battle going on for the control of the mind. We are commanded to take up our cross each day. The cross speaks of death, and that taking up of our cross means we should put the old man of flesh to death.

*Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

*Luke 9:24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

*Luke 9:25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?*

*1 Th 4:5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

*1 Th 4:6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.*

Verse 5 command us to turn from the lust of concupiscence. I looked up this word in the dictionary, and it has the following definition:

**concupiscence** \Con\*cu"pis\*cence\, n. [F., fr. L. concupiscentia.] Sexual lust; morbid carnal passion, a desire for sexual intimacy; denotes evil desire, indwelling sin.

We need to learn to keep our bodies under subjection and to reject sinful lust.

*Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:  
Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

*James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.  
James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:  
James 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.  
James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

*1 Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.  
1 Th 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.*

God wants us to walk in purity and holiness like Jesus walked during his life. His desire was to always do the will of the Father, and his walk was a walk of holiness.

*Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

*Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

J. Vernon McGee had this to say about walking in holiness.

A child of God is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He cannot continue to live in sin because the Holy Spirit is the *Holy* Spirit. The time will come when the child of God will long for holiness in his own life.

The Holy Spirit is the only means by which we can live for God. We see in Paul's Galatian epistle that the child of God is not to indulge in the sins of the flesh. Instead, there should be the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in the life. In Romans 8:3, Paul makes it very clear: "For what the law could not do..." Why? Is the Law wrong? No, the Law is not wrong; the Ten Commandments are not wrong. The problem is with man, not with the Law. Man cannot attain to the level of the Ten Commandments, nor can he live by the commandments in the New Testament. It is the Holy Spirit within the believer who has been given to him to enable him to live a life for God.

God has given the Holy Spirit to *every* believer. He is not something to be sought after a person is saved. The moment a sinner trusts Christ, that person is indwelt by the Spirit of God. In Acts 19 we find that when Paul arrived in Ephesus, he found people who were professing to be Christians, but he saw that they were not indwelt by the Spirit of God. He asked them whether they had received the Holy Spirit when they were saved. They told him they had never even heard about such things; they had heard only of the baptism of John. So Paul preached the gospel to them, and then they were saved and received the Holy Spirit. You receive the Holy Spirit only when you are converted and come to Christ. A person may have many infillings of the Spirit after that, and I think we need a constant infilling of the Holy Spirit. It is only the indwelling Holy Spirit that enables us to lead holy lives. <sup>i</sup>

1 Th 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

1 Th 4:10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

I think of all the attributes that a Christian should be know of, the number one thing we should be known for is our love one for another. Without love, we are as a tinkling cymbal the bible says. When we look at the kind of love Jesus gave for us, we certainly should care and be concerned one for another.

*1 John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.*

*1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.*

*Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Verse 10 says we should grow in grace more and more. Do you have the ability to overlook the sins in others, or do you easily spot your brother and sister's errors but not see your own. We should leave the judging up the Lord, and seek to grow in grace every day.

*1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

*Hebrews 5:13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of*

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<sup>i</sup>J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

*full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

*Psalm 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

*1 Th 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;  
1 Th 4:12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*

God's word is pretty clear about us interfering in each others personal business. That is not to say we should not help and encourage, but most of all, God wants us to learn to take care of our own business and learn to be quiet. That is more difficult for some of us than others. Being a person with a personality that makes me want to talk, I find this more difficult than some other commands. But the bible says there is a time to speak and a time to keep quiet. We need to learn to do this better and better, and also to walk honestly before the poor and the unsaved. When we do this, God promises we will have lack of nothing.

*Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,*

*1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

*13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:*

W.A. Criswell in the Believers Study Bible said this about leading the quiet life to the honor of God.

“Quiet” implies a restful or quiet life. Hence, the intent of the statement is that a believer should exhibit industry in living a quiet life, one free from contention with others and one ready to act in the sharing of life's essentials among believers. This results in an impeccable testimony to God's sufficiency. **ii**

## **II. Our Expectation**

*1 Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

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ii W.A. Criswell, *Believer's study Bible [computer file], electronic ed.*, Logos Library System, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1991 by the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies.

*1 Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

God has never wanted us to be ignorant concerning the resurrection. All those who know Christ as Lord and Savior will have their body raised at the return of Christ and reunited with the soul which has went to be with God at death. The resurrected saints will all appear with Christ at His Revelation.

*Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

*John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

*Jude 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

*1 Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

*1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*1 Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Perhaps there are no greater words of comfort in God's word than these 3 verses here in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4. No matter whether we are alive or have died before Christ returns, all of us are going to meet the Lord in the air. We see the explanation of the rapture of the saints here in these verses. Jesus Christ, the first fruit, was raised from the dead. Then the dead in Christ rise, and then all we who are remaining alive will be caught up to the heavens with Christ.

*Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

*1 Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

*1 Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

It says in verse 17 that after we are caught up, we will be forever with the Lord. These are promises that we can look to and know will happen just like God has said. I am so thankful that God told us certain things about the future, that we might have peace and comfort concerning what faces us as children of the Lord.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**