1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 10

4:9-12

Memorize one of the four verses from this week’s study, or all of them if you can. They are rich!

Read through all of chapter 4 before beginning this lesson. Then, take some time to pray that the Holy Spirit will use the words of Scripture to show you how you can excel still more.

1. **After addressing sanctification in the area of sexual purity, what is the next area of growth Paul turns to (v. 9)? What is his instruction to the Thessalonians?**
2. **What reason does Paul give for not providing more detailed instructions on this subject (v. 9-10)?**
3. Though Paul did not feel the need to give detailed instructions in this letter about what this brotherly love looks like, he did expand upon the idea elsewhere. What do you learn about Christian love from Romans 12:9-13?
4. **The word used for “love” here is *philadelphia—*brotherly love. According to one commentator, “Outside the New Testament, *philadelphia* almost invariably denotes the love that binds together the children of one father; in the New Testament it is without exception used for the love uniting Christians to one another.” In the first century, believing in Christ often resulted in the rupturing of family ties. But as Christians, they became part of a new family (the heavenly Father’s); hence, they became brothers and sisters of all who believed”.**

**In what ways should love between believers mirror that of a close family?**

1. **What do you learn about the importance of Christian love from the following verses?**

 **John 13:34-35**

**Hebrews 6:10; 10:24-25**

1 Peter 4:8-11

1 John 4:7-11; 20-21

1. **Looking back over the previous questions, in what areas do you struggle to love the brethren? How can you *excel still more* in loving your brothers and sisters in Christ? List three things you can do (and will do) this week to abound in love toward the brethren.**
2. **The Thessalonian’s love was exemplary, but it was not perfect. Paul once again says “*excel still more*” because he wanted them to strengthen their love even greater. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:22 to “fervently love one another”. What does it mean to fervently love?**
3. Do you know of certain brothers or sisters in Christ who are in need of some practical expression of love and service, (maybe right in your own small group or perhaps in your care group)? What are some concrete ways you are willing to love and serve them this week? Write them down and make a plan to execute!!
4. **Paul commends this church for their understanding and practice of love for the brethren. I believe he would do the same for LCBC. Share some ways that you either experienced firsthand or have seen the body of Christ at LCBC faithfully loving one another in an ongoing and commendable fashion?**
5. What difference has this made in your life and what are some ways you believe you and your church could “***excel still more***”?
6. **Paul indicates that believers are to have as their ambition three goals (v. 11). What does it mean and look like practically, to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your own hands?**
7. Why would Paul even need to give instructions to this church about these things in particular?
8. What are the most common ways Christians today (and especially YOU) may be tempted to NOT pursue those virtues?
9. **Greek society at the time viewed physical labor as something fit only for slaves or the lower class. In contrast how do the scriptures view work? See Romans 12:11, 13; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:7-15, and 1Timothy 5:8.**
10. How do we balance out when someone cannot work or attend to their own business due to “circumstances beyond their control”?
11. **What are the two purposes or results for these instructions (v. 12)? Explain.**
12. **How could a failure to work hard, mind our own business and live quietly harm our testimony with unbelievers?**
13. How is your witness in this area? Would you be commended for your work ethic?
14. **What do you learn from the following verses? Let us pray that our life be such a platform to lead others to Christ.**

Job 2:3

Daniel 6:4-5

Matthew 5:16

Philippians 2:15-16

1 Peter 2:12

“The quiet life contradicts the hugely successful modern attraction to entertainment and excitement. This addiction to entertainment and excitement is damaging both spiritually and culturally. We might say that excitement and entertainment are like a religion for many people today.

· This religion has a god: The self.

· This religion has priests: Celebrities.

· This religion has a prophet: Music video channels.

· This religion has scriptures: Tabloids and entertainment news and information programs.

· This religion has places of worship: Amusement parks, theaters, concert halls, sports arenas; and we could say that even television is a little chapel.

The religion of excitement and entertainment seduces people into living their lives for one thing - the thrill of the moment. But these thrills are quickly over and forgotten, and all that is important is the next fun thing.

This religion conditions its followers to only ask one question: “Is it fun?” It never wants us to ask more important questions such as, “Is it true?” “Is it right?” “Is it good?” “Is it godly?”

We need to live the quiet life so that we can really take the time and give the attention to listen to God. When we live the quiet life, we can listen to God and get to know Him better.” Guzik