1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 8

4:1-2

Your **memory verse** this week is 4:1. Say it out loud **three times** before starting this lesson.

**Read chapter 4 in two different translations.**

1. **“*Finally, brethren*” implies a transition in the letter. In *your* own words, how would you, in one sentence, sum up the letter thus far?**
2. What tone and attitude do you think Paul’s choice of words in 4:1-2 communicate?
3. **In its simplest form, what is the main command of verse 1?**
4. **Define ‘request’ and ‘exhort’ and explain the difference between them?**

**Request:**

**Exhort:**

 **Why did Paul use both of these words?**

1. Twice in these first two verses we see the phrase “in/by the Lord Jesus.” What is Paul trying to emphasize?
2. Why do you think Paul felt the need to remind the Thessalonians that his instructions to them were given under the authority of the Lord Jesus?
3. **The word translated “ought” in verse 1 actually has the meaning of “*it is a must, it is necessary*” and often implies inevitability. How does this fuller meaning affect your reading of this request?**
4. In Christian circles we often talk about our “walks.” Look up the following verses and summarize the New Testament understanding of a believer’s walk?

Galatians 5:16

Ephesians 2:10; 4:1,17; 5:8

1. What is the goal of walking in this way? (verse 1; see also Colossians 1:10)
2. **What does it mean to *please God?* Can sinful people ever please Him, and if saved by grace, why should we want to? Look up the following verses and jot down what each one teaches us about pleasing God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:9**

Ephesians 5:8-10

**Colossians 1:10**

Hebrews 11:6

**Hebrews 13:15-16**

1 John 3:22

1. **Paul’s grand ambition in *life* and *death* was to PLEASE God and our ambition should be the same. Is pleasing God a daily priority for you, an onerous burden, a distant background noise, or ???**
2. **Is my life pleasing to the Lord, in my relationships at home, at work, church etc.? Take time to think and pray this through. Which areas of my life are some changes needed? Be specific, write out a POA.**
3. Look up *excel* (or *abound*). What does this word mean, and how does this help you to understand the command of verse 1?
4. By way of review, what have we already learned about the spiritual condition of these believers (See chapter 1; also 4:1)?
5. **Knowing this, why would Paul give them this commandment? For that matter, why do all believers need to be urged to excel still more in their walks?**
6. **What does Paul now remind his audience of in verse 2? Why the reminder and why are reminders so important and necessary for us? Look up 2 Thess. 2:5; 2 Peter 1:12-15;** 3:1-2.
7. **We believers have a tendency to think that further spiritual growth and maturity will come only from discovering something new, fresh, and different. How does verse 2 refute this idea?**
8. **How would you counsel/disciple someone who claims that they trusted in Christ for salvation, but they don’t necessarily want to change their life or obey in a certain area? List three ways with scripture passages you could challenge them.**
9. The pursuit of excellence is a **lifelong** commitment. As we walk in daily obedience, we gradually but surely become more and more like Christ. Read the following verses.

1 Cor. 9:24-27

Phil. 3:12-14

Hebrews 12:1-2

What does this look like in practical terms?

1. **What are some ways we can know we are gradually growing in sanctification?**

*“It is the still water which becomes stagnant and impure:*

*the running, moving streams are always clear.”*

*~J.C. Ryle*

Called Unto Holiness by Mrs. C. H. Morris

Called unto holiness, church of our God,
Purchase of Jesus, redeemed by His blood,
Called from the world and its idols to flee,
Called from the bondage of sin to be free.

Called unto holiness; praise His dear Name!
This blessed secret to faith now made plain:
Not our own righteousness, but Christ within,
Living and reigning and saving from sin.

Called unto holiness, children of light,
Walking with Jesus in garments of white;
Raiment unsullied, nor tarnished with sin,
God's Holy Spirit abiding within.

Called unto holiness, Bride of the Lamb,
Waiting the Bridegroom's returning again;
Lift up your heads, for the day draweth near
When in His beauty the King shall appear.