

1 Thessalonians Chapter 4

I. EXHORTATION (v. 1-8)

1. REMINDER (v. 1-6)

- “Urge and exhort”, to rally with, encourage
- In Jesus, not just for yourself, 4 ways:
 - A. Should **ABOUND** more and more
 - As received by us, continual action, pass it on
 - Perform 2 things, walk and please God
 - B. Should **ABSTAIN** from sexual immorality
 - “Will of God”, sanctification, what is that?
 - Rom 6:15-22, slavery to sin
 - 1 Cor 1:26-31, will of God
 - Jer 9:23-24, knowing God
 - Righteous living, circumcised heart
 - Slave to God, His will, 2 Thess 2:13
 - C. Should have **AUTHORITY** his own vessel
 - (v.4) Control your body, ongoing struggle
 - 1 Cor 6:12-20, bodies are members of Christ
 - (v.5) “passion of lust”, lit. “lust of the lust”
 - Epitome of carnality, a destructive path
 - D. Shouldn’t take **ADVANTAGE** of others
 - Idea of going beyond, over a wall
 - Used only here, defraud anyone for anything
 - God the ultimate avenger, outside our control
 - We have been warned

2. REJECTION (v. 7-8)

A. HOLINESS

- Paul reminds them of their calling
- Accept holiness, reject lewdness, uncleanness

- Not a simple process, but rewarding

B. HOLY SPIRIT

- (v.8) Rejection brings consequences
- Continual rejection of God's plan
- Rejecting the Spirit goes against the very nature and will of God
- Up to them to follow instructions for a holy/rewarding life

II. EXEMPLIFICATION (v. 9-12)

1. Their WALK

- "Brotherly love", Gr. = Christian love to brothers/sisters
- No need to write, what else can he add?
- Taught by God, how? Christ's love for us
- While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)
- We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)
- Our Christian journey has always been grounded in love
- Paul wants them to increase in love (1 Thess 3:12)

2. Their WITNESS

- (v.11) Lead a quiet life, Gr. = aspire to, ambition
- Mind your own business, keep to yourself
- Work with your hands, stay busy not busy bodies
 - Some were slacking off
 - Just waiting for the Lord, sitting back
 - Feeding off of others
- The result of all of this? (v.12)
 - Walking properly, Gr. = honorably, no blame
 - Good testimony to those on the outside
 - Reps of Christ, the imperfect following the perfect example

III. EXPECTATION (v. 13-18)

1. CONCERN

- "Don't be ignorant", Paul wanted them to know

- Solid knowledge of a thing brings assurance
- Assurance brings hope, hope is the key to our faith
- Faith fuels hope
 - (v.14) If we believe
 - Hope of the coming of Christ

2. COMMAND

- (v.15) "We say", idea of laying down before someone
- Paul lays down the truth, authority of the Word
- Sequence of events, dead first then living
- Translated resurrection bodies
- (v.16) Lord Himself descends, emphatic personal pronoun
- No one else has authority (Rev 5, opening the scroll of judgements)
- Descends with a shout, military command, usually to start or stop an action
- Voice of archangel, lit. a sound or tone
- Loud trumpet of God
- 1 Cor 15:51-58, Paul explains this mystery, a secret knowledge
 - "In a moment", Gr. **atomos** = atom, indivisible amount of time
 - Twinkling of an eye, very quick action
 - Blink and you miss it
 - Incorruptible resurrection body

3. COMFORT

- Not a visible return (v.17)
- "Caught up", Gr. **harpazo** = to snatch away, to rob with force
- Different than G. **klepto** = to steal secretly
- Examples of raptures:
 - Acts 8:39-40, Philip and Ethiopian eunuch
 - 2 Cor 12:2-4, Paul going to heaven
 - Rev 12:1-5, Israel's child born
- (v.18) Comfort one another, come to each other's side
- Fellowship and strengthening of believers