

## **I Thessalonians: Lesson #51: Behaving Properly**

### **Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children**

### **For Sunday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>**

Read I Thess. 3:11 - 4:12; 5:11-28 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

**Memory Verse:** I Thess. 5:21 “Test all things; hold fast what is good.”

#### **Staying Morally Clean**

- Christians must stay clean and set apart for God’s service. Some families have special dishes for special occasions. They get them out during holidays and family gatherings. They show how beautiful a table your mother can set and she takes pride in them.
- God considers His people kind of like that -- special. They are set apart from the world to demonstrate God’s wisdom, glory and honor.
- But when God uses us for His service, He doesn’t want dirty dishes. He doesn’t want us to be unclean. God would be ashamed of us if we lived unclean lives.
- That’s why God expects us to control our bodies and not give in to sin.

#### **About Brotherly Love**

- God was the One who has taught us the most about love. Even though people were sinning against God and breaking His laws, He loved us enough to send His Son Jesus to save us. That teaches us that you can love somebody even when they don’t act right to you. You can still treat them right.
- Christians are to love everyone. They are to treat everyone right and do good things for others. But Christians should work extra hard at loving each other. Christians should treat each other like they are all part of the same family, God’s family. In the Bible that kind of love is called brotherly love.
- Paul was proud that the Thessalonian Christians had shown great love for their fellow Christians all over their part of the world.
- Our love should always be increasing and overflowing.

#### **Doing Our Work**

- Paul told the Thessalonians that they needed to make sure that they always worked at their day to day jobs and not be lazy. Right now, you are too young to have a regular job. You have to work hard at school and learn all you can. But when you grow up you will need to work.
- Work is a good thing. When we work we earn money so we can take care of our selves and not depend on others. We need to always try to take care of our own responsibilities.
- Of course, some people get sick or get older and can’t work. We should always be willing to help them if they need it. That is another good reason to work -- to have money to help other people (Eph. 4:28)
- Those who are not Christians need to see that we are good workers.

## **Christian Duties**

- Paul listed several things that the Lord expects from His people:
  - Encourage other Christians. Say things that will help them keep wanting to serve God.
  - Appreciate the leaders of the church, the elders, and all those that work, like the deacons, the Bible class teachers and the preacher.
  - Be peaceful with others at church. Don't be rude or insulting. Treat them right.
  - If some Christians are not doing right, kindly explain what they need to do differently.
  - If some Christians are weak, try to help make them stronger.
  - Be patient with everyone.
  - Don't try to get back at anyone. If they did you wrong, it doesn't mean you should do wrong back at them.
  - Pray a lot.
  - Always be glad for all the things God has blessed us with and remember to thank Him for them every day.
  - Treat God's Word as important.
  - Don't believe everything you hear. Test it and see if that's what the Bible teaches.

## **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

### **Be Ready For the Lord's Coming**

3:11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord guide our way back to you.

12 And may the Lord help your love increase and overflow towards each other and toward everyone, just as our love does toward you.

13 And may this result in your hearts being on solid ground so that when you stand before God the Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, you will be blameless in holiness.

### **Don't Be Immoral**

4:1 So, brethren, let me move on to the rest of what I wanted to tell you. All the teaching you have received from us previously about your binding responsibilities in regard to pleasing God, we request and encourage you to not only to do these, but to excel even more in them.

2 You know the messages that came by the Lord Jesus which we delivered to you.

3 Such truths were given to you because your sanctification, your being set apart and kept clean for God's service, is what God really wants. You must stay away from sexual immorality.

4 Everyone of you should know how to gain control of your own vessel (your body) keeping it set apart for God and showing respect.

5 Don't use your body for unlawful desires and cravings like the Gentiles do -- people who have no understanding of God.

6 No one should cross a line and defraud his brother by coveting such things that have to do with him. Keep in mind that the Lord will punish the person who does a thing like that.

7 God has not called us to unclean things, but to live a life set apart from worldly behavior.

8 Now its for that very reason that anyone who disregards this teaching, is not just disregarding man, but God who gave His Holy Spirit to us.

### **Brotherly Love**

9 But about the matter of brotherly love, you don't really need me to write to you about that because you yourselves were taught by God to love one another.

10 And you've demonstrated your understanding of love by practicing it toward all the brethren throughout Macedonia. All I would plead with you further about, brethren, is to just keep increasing in love more and more.

### **Things a Christian Needs to Do**

11 And we also would instruct you that out of a love for what is good and right, be sure that you diligently work at leading a quiet, peaceful life. Tend to your own responsibilities. Work with your own hands, just like we previously commanded you.

12 By doing this you will be able to walk before outsiders to Christ in a way that looks proper, and you will also have everything you need.

5:11 So continue to admonish each other, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you have been doing.

12 We do encourage you, brethren, to know those who work hard among you and have been set over you in the Lord; these who counsel you and caution you.

13 Not only should you know them, but also think about them a lot with love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves; don't allow yourselves to be divided.

14 But, brethren, we urge you to warn those who are not walking in an orderly way and caution them about the consequences. Comfort and encourage those who inwardly feel very small and lacking in strength. If some are not strong, go to them and help lift them up. And when your agitated, don't lose your temper, but be patient toward everyone.

15 Watch out that no one pays anyone back evil for evil, but always go after the things that are good, both to those who are there and to everyone.

16 Always rejoice.

17 Don't ever stop praying.

18 Give thanks in all things. For all this is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not extinguish the Spirit.

20 When God speaks through prophets, do not treat their words as if they were worthless or unimportant.

21-22 Put everything to the test to verify it. Then when you find what is truly good, cling tightly to it. Keep away from evil in whatever form it may take.

### **Closing the First Letter to the Thessalonians**

23 Now may the God of peace Himself set you apart completely for His service, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 24 The One who called you is faithful, and He is the One who will accomplish this.
- 25 Brethren, pray about us.
- 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy and loving kiss.
- 27 I solemnly charge you by the Lord to read this letter to all the holy brethren.
- 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.