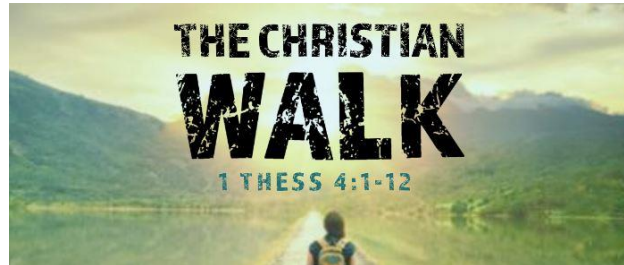


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scripture(s) for Today: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 – how the Christian ought to walk to please God

Today's Message:

"The Christian Walk"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of Paul's concern for the new Christians to mature spiritually: they must learn to stand! And Paul gave them three ministries to help them become firmly planted in their faith. Today, we will see how the Christian life is compared to a **WALK**. It begins with a step of faith which leads to a walk of faith. Now, Paul was a spiritual father and cared for the new believers in Thessalonica. He knew that their city and world was evil and corrupt in so many ways. It was **FILLED** with immorality and violence; it was a cesspool of filth and every form of sin and uncleanness imaginable – it was like the perilous times that we live in. Paul chose to preach about pure love. He focused their minds on God's high calling and the **WILL** of God for their lives. God's will for them and us is to be set apart from this God-forsaken world for His pleasure and glory! The **PROCESS** of sanctification must never stop.

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

#1. Walk in Holiness – Paul beseeches believers to **WALK** pleasing to God. (1-8)

TO PLEASE GOD

- ✓ God defines **MORALITY**. We *besech* you, *brethren... exhort* you **BY** *the Lord Jesus...*
- ✓ God defines **HOW** to live. *How ye ought to walk... please God...abound* more...more

TO OBEY GOD

- ✓ Jesus is to be **OBEYED**. For *ye know* what commandments... **BY** *the Lord Jesus...*
- ✓ God has a **WILL** for your life. For *this is the will of God, even your sanctification...*
- ✓ God's direct will is that you **AVOID all** sexual immorality! ...**ABSTAIN** *from fornication...*
- ✓ God's direct will is that you **CONTROL** your body. ...*you should know how to possess...*
- ✓ Your life must be radically **DIFFERENT** for Christ's sake! In *sanctification and honour...*
- ✓ You are not to live like a **LOST** person! **Not in the LUST** of *concupiscence...* (Unlawful desires)
- ✓ They are going to **HELL** for their sins! Even *as the Gentiles which know not God...*
- ✓ Stop ripping **OTHERS** off! ... *no man go beyond ... defraud his brother...any matter...*
- ✓ For the Lord is **your JUDGE**. *The Lord is the avenger of all such ... have forewarned...*

NOTE All around them was unbridled immorality; Jesus Christ called them to higher ground!

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

W1828:
"fornication"
(Greek: *porneia*)
Every kind of sexual
immorality outside
of a God-honouring
marriage.

TO GLORIFY GOD

- ✓ *God hath not **CALLED** us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. **2Cor 6:17; Rev 18:4***
- ✓ *He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God... **In 14:6; Rom 3:4; Gal 4:16***
- ✓ *Who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. **Rom 8:1, 4; Gal 5:16, 25** (walk in the Spirit)*

NOTE The moment of your salvation, God called you to HOLY LIVING for His glory! Amen.

Characteristics of Seduction/Temptation:

1. Verbal compliments
Pr 2:16; 5:3; 6:24; 7:5, 21 (evil motive)
2. Sensual conversation
Pr 7:16-18 (setups)
3. Weak commitments
Pr 5:6; 7:11,12,19-20
4. Spiritual confusion
Pr 7:14-15 (no stand)
5. Immodest clothing
Pr 7:10; 1Tim2:9,10 (not to provoke men)
6. Physical contact
Pr 5:20; 7:13 (avoid danger, traps)

CONSEQUENCES OF FORNICATION – ALL FORMS

1. **SPIRITUAL** defeat. **Prov 5:21-23; 11:3, 5; Psalm 9:15-16; Jeremiah 2:19-28**
2. **EMOTIONAL** distress. **Prov 6:32-33; 1Pet 2:11 (soul war!); 2Pet 2:7-8 (soul torture!)**
3. **FAMILY** devastation. **Prov 6:27-35; 11:29; 23:26-28; Jos 7:24,25; Hos 8:7; Gal 6:7-8**
4. **PHYSICAL** disease. **Prov 5:11; Rom 1:26-27; 1Cor 6:16-18 (a sin against your own body!)**
5. **CHURCH** discipline. **1Cor 5:9-13 (disapprove; goal: restoration; unrepentant members put out)**

NOTE The word of God is our authority! *The wages of sin is death.* Seeing and hearing immorality is torture to our souls!! Immorality outside of marriage is NEVER OK!

SANCTIFICATION – GOD’S WILL – THE PROCESS OF HOLINESS – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1. **STAY** away from those who are immoral! **Prov 1:10,15; 5:8; 7:6-8, 25-27 (not a game!)**
2. **STOP** lusting with a purpose to sin and fornicate! **Prov 6:25; Mt 5:27-28; 2Tim 2:22**
3. **SEEK** physical satisfaction from your marital spouse or remain single! **Prov 5:15-19**
4. **SUBMIT** to the word of God! **Prov 5:23; 6:23-24; Mt 26:41; Rom 12:1-2; Gal 5:13**

NOTE The Christian is called unto HOLINESS! Your body is the temple of your holy God!!

B. The Application (How will you apply this truth to your life?)

1. *The Christian walk is not **DEFINED** by you, it is defined by our Lord Jesus Christ!*

QUESTION Are you willing to obey Jesus Christ in every area of your life? Discipleship?

2. *The Christian walk is to be radically **DIFFERENT** from this God-forsaken world!*

QUESTION Would God say that you look more like Jesus Christ or the world today?

3. *The Christian walk is holy: you must **AVOID** all forms of fornication and sin!*

QUESTION What specifically does God want you to change? Repent of sin against God.

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