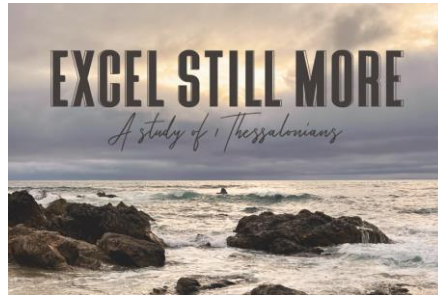


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31



October 29, 2023

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Excel Still More Part 1

Main Idea:

Having commended the Thessalonian believers for their steadfast faith and far-reaching witness for the Lord in the first part of the letter, in chapter 4 Paul addresses the matter of their ongoing sanctification. To continue to grow in holiness, the believers needed to keep on striving to live righteously in accord with the instruction they had already received from the missionaries. One area that can be a dangerous pitfall for all Christians is sexual immorality because it stops the sanctification process cold. For that reason, Paul urged the Thessalonians to continue to abstain from it altogether and to thereby avoid its many harmful consequences.

Outline:

3 Instructions for standing firm against sexual immorality

- 1) To stand firm, you must heed the command to abstain from sexual immorality

- 2) To abstain from sexual immorality, you must know how to properly possess (how to control) your own body in sanctification and honor

3 steps toward cultivating a lifestyle of moral purity:

Step 1 – know and meditate on what God's Word says on the matter

Step 2 – Keep yourself away from temptation

Step 3 – Commit yourself to wholesome relationships

- 3) To stand firm against sexual immorality, always remember that for the believer, its consequences are severe

