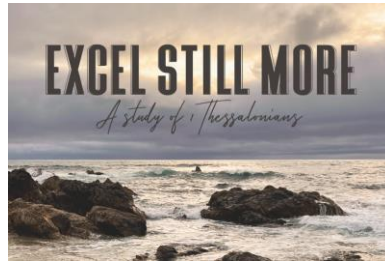


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

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

John 8:31



November 5, 2023

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

Excel Still More Part 2

Main Idea:

The believers in the church at Thessalonica had received instruction from the missionaries on “how to walk and please God” and they were doing just that. In spite of adversity and fierce persecution, they were “walking” well. They became imitators of the Lord and their testimony thundered throughout Macedonia, Achaia and beyond. Still, to continue to grow in sanctification day by day they needed to excel still more. After addressing their need to continue to live pure lives by abstaining from sexual immorality, Paul takes up another urgent sanctification need. To continue to grow in holiness, the believers needed to excel still more in love.

Outline:

1. (Review) To continue to grow in sanctification, the Thessalonians believers needed to continually strive after moral purity
 2. To continue to grow in sanctification, the believers needed to continue to excel still more in love
- 4 instructions for excelling still more in love as a church family:
- 1) we must make it a priority to be together
 - 2) we must be gracious to one another
 - 3) we must dedicate ourselves to serving one another
 - 4) we must be willing as a church family to sacrifice to meet the needs of other believers we may not even personally know

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 When we speak of the believer's sanctification, what are we referring to?

- How would you explain the sanctification process to a new believer? (be sure to address all 3 phases.)

- Can believers impede or accelerate their growth in sanctification?
How?

#2 According to v.9, believers are "taught by God to love one another."

How?

#3 How does love inspire forgiveness?

#4 For believers, what is the relationship between love and service?

#5 The Thessalonian Christians practiced love toward all the brethren in Macedonia, including those outside their fellowship (v.10).

- According to the message, in what way/ways did they likely do this?