

Hope and Work: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

The Hope-Driven Life Series

Discussion Questions

1. Spend a few minutes recapping the letter of 1 Thessalonians and the teaching so far in this series. What stands out? How were the Thessalonian Christians living in encouraging ways?
2. What was the Patronage System in the Roman Empire? Why is it helpful to understand life in Thessalonica in order to understand the context of our study today?
3. Read **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13**. How does this prayer set up Paul's next section of encouragement and teaching?
 1. What does "love for one another and for all" mean?
 2. What does it mean to have "hearts blameless in holiness before God" mean?
4. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**. What encouragement do you see in verses 9-10?
5. What do you think Paul is getting at when he says, "But we urge you brothers to do this more and more..."?
6. What do you think Paul is calling the Thessalonian Christians to do in verse 11?
 1. What would it look like for them to "live quiet lives and mind your own affairs?"
 2. What would it look like for them to "work with their hands?"
7. Now move into our world. How does this teaching apply to us?
 1. What would it look like for you to live quiet lives and mind your own affairs?
 2. What would it look like to see your work as valuable to the kingdom of heaven?
 3. Are there any areas of your life that you haven't let Jesus change?
8. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:12** again. How would a quiet, diligent, humble life cause others in your life to see Christ? What would it look like for you to love outsiders like Jesus does?