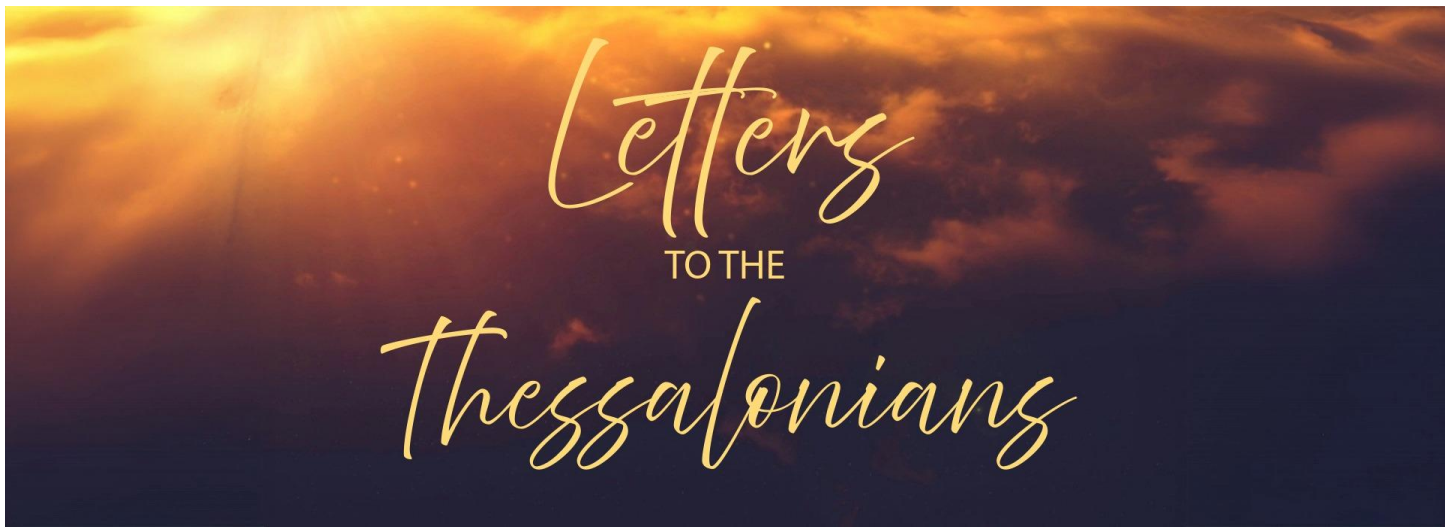




SERMON SERIES: THESSALONIANS – WEEK 4

Message Title: A Picture of Holiness

Main Texts: 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12; 1 Thessalonians 5:14–22; 1 Peter 2:24

◆ INTRODUCTION

When we hear the word *holiness*, images often come to mind—rules about clothing, hairstyles, tattoos, piercings, fasting, or rituals. But holiness and integrity are not about outward appearances or opinions. They are about daily living, honoring God in our choices, and walking in the Spirit amidst the noise of the world.

Paul shifts in chapter 4 from encouragement to instruction—urging believers not just to survive persecution, but to grow in sanctification and integrity as they follow Christ.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

1. Integrity That Speaks Louder Than Words

- Story of the London pastor and the bus driver: integrity tested in the small things.
- People are watching whether we live what we preach.

- Holiness is not an idea—it is a life of consistent obedience.
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2. Holiness as a Calling, Not an Option (4:1–2)

- Paul reminds them: *live to please God, and do so more and more.*
 - “Parangelias” = commands/orders with authority (not mere suggestions).
 - Just as Jesus gave orders in Acts 1, Paul gives directives with weight.
 - Holiness is not legalism—it’s obedience to God’s will.
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3. Sanctification and Sexual Integrity (4:3–8)

- God’s will: *be sanctified*—set apart for Him.
 - Avoid sexual immorality; control your own body with honor.
 - Sin in this area harms not just us, but brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - Sexual temptation is not new—it has plagued humanity since Genesis.
 - Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, called to purity and honor.
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4. Holiness Lived in Love and Work (4:9–12)

- Paul affirms their love, but urges them to *increase more and more.*
- Live a quiet life, mind your own business, and work with your hands.

- Holiness is not abstract—it shows up in how we love and how we live.
 - Integrity in ordinary life is a testimony to outsiders.
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5. Everyday Holiness in Community (5:14–22)

Paul gives practical instructions that anchor holiness in daily life:

- Warn the unruly.
 - Comfort the fainthearted.
 - Uphold the weak.
 - Be patient with all.
 - Do not repay evil with evil—pursue what is good.
 - Rejoice always.
 - Pray without ceasing.
 - Give thanks in everything.
 - Do not stifle the Spirit.
 - Hold on to what is good; avoid every kind of evil.
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6. Rejoice – Pray – Give Thanks

- Rejoicing is an act of faith—speaking life even in hardship.
- Prayer is an open line with God—unceasing and conversational.
- Thanksgiving keeps us rooted in God’s providence and perspective.

- John Wesley: “Prayer is the fruit of rejoicing, and thanksgiving is the fruit of rejoicing and prayer.”
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7. Preparing for Eternity

- Holiness is not just about now—it prepares us for eternity with God.
 - From Leviticus to Paul’s letters: “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”
 - Our lives of integrity, purity, and love point toward the coming of Christ.
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FINAL TAKEAWAY

- Holiness is not about appearances but about obedience.
- Integrity matters in the small moments as much as the big ones.
- Paul’s call to holiness is deeply practical: love more, live quietly, rejoice, pray, and give thanks.
- This world is not our home—we live holy lives now as preparation for eternity with Christ.