

## Ready for Departure

Jesse Berthold / July 16, 2023



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### 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. <sup>2</sup> For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>3</sup> God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. <sup>4</sup> Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—<sup>5</sup> not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. <sup>6</sup> Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. <sup>7</sup> God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. <sup>8</sup> Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you."

Verse 3... God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

**2 Timothy 21–22 (NLT)** “If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

**2 Timothy 2:22...** Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace.

**1 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)** “Run from sexual sin!...”

Verses 18-20 “No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. <sup>19</sup> Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”

Verse 15... “Don’t you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never!”

**Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV)** “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

## **FIRST POINT = STOP PLAYING WITH FIRE!**

**Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)** “... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:2–3 (NLT)** “... The day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.”

## **SECOND POINT = JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR A PURE BRIDE...**

**Revelation 19:6–9 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder:

“Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

<sup>8</sup> She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people.

<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.