

# **FIRST THESSALONIANS**

## **God's Message to a Church and culture like Ours Today**

### **CHAPTER FOUR NOTES:**

#### **WE SHOULD LIVE TO PLEASE GOD! (Verses 1 –12; see also II Cor 5:9-10)**

**Live = “Walk”. Walk pictures steady progress, not a sprint or run (“The Christian life is a m \_\_\_\_\_, not a s \_\_\_\_\_”).**

- 1) We need to continually improve at living to please God (v. 1)
- 2) We please God when we follow Jesus' instructions (v. 2)
- 3) We please God when we follow God's will to be sanctified (i.e. holy; set-apart) (v.3)
- 4) We please God when we follow His will and are sexually pure (v. 3; see also I Cor 6:12-20)
  - a. We should control our bodies and desires (v. 4)
  - b. We should act holy and only have appropriate sexual expression (v. 4-5)
  - c. Sexual sins can harm others (v. 6)
  - d. Sexual sins bring punishment/bad consequences (v. 6)
  - e. God calls us to live pure/holy lives (v. 7)
  - f. Living pure is God's teaching, and He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us live pure (v.8)
- 5) We please God when we love each other (v. 9-10; see also Matthew 22:34-40 )
  - a) God teaches us to love each other (v. 9)
  - b) It is good to love our brothers and sisters in Christ (v. 10)
  - c) We need to love each other more and more (continually improve) (v. 10)
- 6) We please God when are diligent, work hard and set a good example to others (v. 11-12)
  - a. We should aspire to live “quiet” lives (v. 11)
  - b. We should not be intrusive into the lives of others (v. 11)
  - c. We should set a good example and earn the respect of others (v. 12)
  - d. We should work with our own hands and avoid being dependent on others (v. 11-12)

#### **WE SHOULD LIVE WITH HOPE! (Verses 13-18):**

- 7) We need not sorrow over those who have died in Christ – we have the hope of seeing them again! (v. 13)
- 8) Jesus will return to earth some day, and so will those who have died in Him! (v. 14)!
- 9) When Jesus returns, those who have died will be resurrected first, and those who are living will meet up with Him (v. 15-17)
- 10) All who know Christ will live forever with Him! (v. 17)
- 11) The future hope of eternally living with Jesus and His followers should comfort and encourage us! (v. 18)