

“1 Thessalonians 4:1–18”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “1 Thessalonians 4:1-18.

Father and Son

Let’s take a brief glimpse at chapter 3.

- 1 Thessalonians 3:11—“May our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ direct our way to you.”
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12—“May the Lord make you increase in love to one another and to all.”
- 1 Thessalonians 3:13—“So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness, before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”

Remember the instructions

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1—Walk to please God.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:2—Paul said: “Remember the commandments (instructions) we gave to you through the Lord Jesus.”

God wants sanctification

In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6, Paul reminded them about principles of holiness.

- Abstain from sexual immorality.
- Possess your own vessel in sanctification and honor.
- Avoid the passion of lust.
- Do not take advantage of another person in this matter.

Called to holiness

- 1 Thessalonians 4:7—God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:8—People who reject holiness are not rejecting people, but are rejecting God (who gave us His Holy Spirit).
- 1 Thessalonians 4:9—God taught us to love one another.

Targeted behavior

In Thessalonians 4:10-12, Paul taught them to aspire to specific behavior.

- Lead a quiet life.
- Mind your own business.
- Work with your hands.
- Walk properly toward those outside the faith.

'Fallen asleep'

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13—Paul reminded the brethren that there is a tremendous hope associated with falling asleep (death).
- 1 Corinthians 15:6—After Christ had risen, most of the people who saw Him were still alive, but some had fallen asleep (died).
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-18—If Christ is not risen, then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- 1 Corinthians 15:51—Paul said: “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:52—Paul said: “The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
- Revelation 8:1-2—The seventh seal involves seven trumpets.
- Revelation 11:15-19—At the seventh trumpet, “the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ—and He shall reign forever and ever!”
- Revelation 20:5-6—John spoke about the first resurrection.

Very positive message

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13—Although death brings understandable sorrow, we should not sorrow as others who have no hope.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14—If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:15—Those who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who are asleep (have died).
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16—The Lord will descend from heaven with the trumpet, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17—Then those who are alive will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18—“Comfort one another with these words.”