

July 18, 2021

Excel Even More
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
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Vol. 11 Num.29

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

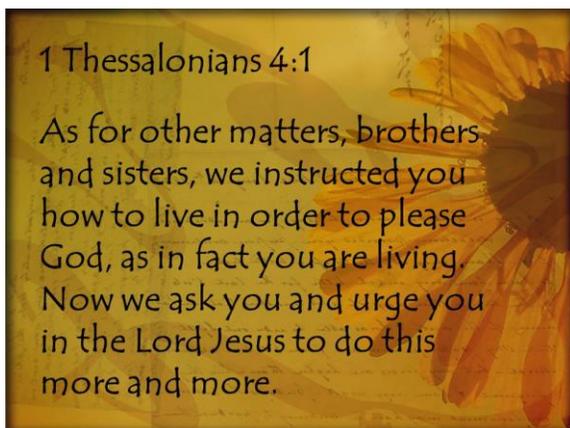
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week in 1 Thessalonians we will be looking at the first part of chapter 4. In this chapter Paul emphasizes sanctification. Sanctification is defined in the dictionary as the action of making or declaring something holy or the action of causing something to be or seem morally right or acceptable. The dictionary definition can be confusing and the process of sanctification is often confused with salvation. In this passage Paul is not concerned about the salvation of the Thessalonians. He knows they have accepted Christ and are growing in their understanding of Him. He is concerned about their sanctification and their need to become more and more holy like Christ. Join us this week as we talk about the process and importance of sanctification.

Sanctification and Love

4 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. **2** For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of* the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the avenger* in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; **10** for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, **11** and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, **12** so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes