

The 1st Epistle to the Thessalonians

Living to Please God

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Reading

Chapters 3 & 4

Opening Prayer

Questions to Consider

Chapter 3

1. Paul continues to be pleased and seems overcome with joy on learning the news of the Thessalonians strong faith and fortitude. Share a story of your experience of joy caused by success or accomplishment in sharing the Good News. Do you have any stories of disappointment? Why were these experiences different?

Chapter 4

2. Paul urges the Thessalonians to "...live in a way that is pleasing to God." At the top of his list is avoiding sexual sins. The only references Jesus makes to this topic is adultery and prostitution, and his focus is forgiveness and counsel to sin no more. He seems more focused on sins of pride, lack of compassion, and selfishness. Why might Paul be so focused on sexual sin in his writings?

3. Why would Paul counsel the Thessalonians to "Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business..."? 1 Thessalonians 4:11 Do our pastors give such counsel today? Have you ever heard such advice from the pulpit? If they do, are we likely to do as they tell us?

4. First Thessalonians is most known for Chapter 4:13-18. After Paul left Thessaloniki, some of the believers died. Since all were expecting to see the Lord in the flesh, the remaining believers asked Paul what would happen to those already dead. From this question comes his famous declaration that all would "...meet the Lord in the air," the source of the belief in the "rapture." Recall that Paul was writing to people 2,000 years ago, who expected to see Jesus soon, not to Christians in 2020. Discuss.

Closing Prayer