

1 Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 4: 1Thessalonians 3:11-4:12
(week of October 2)

Verse to remember - 1 Thessalonians 3:12

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.”

Gathering

Opening Prayer

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:12

1. 3:11-13 is a “bridge” that can round off what comes before, or introduce what comes next. If read as an introduction, how does it “set you up” to hear and receive 4:1-12?

2. In 4:1-2 and 6 Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his previous teachings on the topic of how to live and please God, particularly in relation to sexual (im)morality. What teaching have you received on this topic, and how was it given?

3. What is the will of God (4:3)? Your _____. What does that word mean to you?

The same Greek word can also mean holiness; consecration; causing to belong completely to God.

4. “Fornication” (4:3) is a translation of *porneia* (from which the word pornography comes). It is often translated “sexual immorality” and refers generally to extramarital sex (sex before or outside the context of a marriage). How does abstaining from this connect to your sanctification?

5. How do you control your own body in holiness and honor?

(Think of your own answer to #5, but once you’ve done so, you might consult Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, or Philippians 1:20-21 for other ideas.)

6. Paul indicates that *porneia* somehow “exploits” (“takes advantage of;” “crosses a boundary”) a brother or a sister. Does *porneia* always do this? Why or why not?

7. When Paul refers to “the Lord,” he is usually talking about Jesus. What do you think it means that Jesus is “the avenger in all these things” (4:6)? Why is this such a solemn warning?

8. Why might Paul take this opportunity to remind the Thessalonians that God also gives his Holy Spirit to them (4:8)?

9. Paul urges the Thessalonians to “love all the brothers and sisters...more and more” (4:10). Look up one or more of the following passages to give concrete meaning to this instruction: Romans 12:9-16, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 1 John 3:16-18. What are some specific things you feel convicted to do “more and more?”

10. What three things does Paul tell the Thessalonians to do in 4:11? Reflect on this as a method of evangelization.

11. Questions for personal application.
What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

Closing prayer