



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

THE LIFE THAT PLEASURES GOD 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1 Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

I. A REQUEST FOR GODLY LIVING

V.1 "Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live...." 2 "you know what instructions we gave"

INSTRUCTED....

- (1) a summary of the gospel story
- (2) a rehearsal of deeds and words of Christ;
- (3) ethical and procedural guidelines for Christians ...i.e. Behavior...how to live and act daily to please God. There is a way of life that pleases God

The request.... We urge you....do this more and more; exceed, surpass; be outstanding; Paul urges you to live "that you may abound more and more in the kind of conduct that pleases God."

The Authority...(v.2)by the authority of the Lord Jesus. You must know the authority by which one speaks Acts 19:13

Christ led a life that brought pleasure to God, and taught his followers how to live so as to please God. ...you do the same...more and more

II. THE REASON FOR GODLY LIVING V. 3-6a

It is God's will that you should be sanctified

SANCTIFICATION: To be set apart from the common and the profane and set apart to God

Be sanctified...be Holy: "Haggiosmos" –

HOLY - the process of making holy; dedicating, causing to belong completely to God; pure way of life, upright behavior; (Jn 17:19)

TWO ASPECTS OF SANCTIFIED LIVING:

1. Actions toward self:

- a. Negative...v.3.b ...that you should avoid sexual immorality Avoid - to hold back, prevent absolutely, to hold oneself off, abstain; from anything,
- b. Positive...V.4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,
 - Learn to control – know, understand, comprehend; recognize, be able
 - Control it in a certain way ...in sanctification and honor.
 - Key: The body belongs to the Lord and must be consecrated to him;
 - Honor: worth ascribed to a person or the value ascribed to a thing; *reverence, respect; dignity bestowed*
- c. Negative...V.5 ...not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

2. Actions toward Others - V. 6a "... and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him.

III. RESULT (v.6b-8)

"The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you."

Reason for punishment... V.7 "For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life".

Call – to provide with a name; invite; God's invitation to salvation or an appointment to a task

GOD CALLS YOU

IMPURE – worthless material, waste; of graves decayed flesh, defilement; moral uncleanness, the opposite of holy living; sexual immorality, indecency, sexual impurity

Sanctification is part of the Christian calling. By calling his people God sanctifies them in the sense of setting them apart for himself and apart from impurity.

LIVE OUT WHAT YOU ALREADY ARE...CALLED & SANCTIFIED

RESULT.....v8 "Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit

CONCLUSION

The Spirit whom Christians have received is the Spirit of holiness, and nothing unholy can be tolerated in one whom He indwells. Self-control is part of the fruit which His presence yields in a believer's life. (Gal 5:22, 23) It is God's will that you should be sanctified and God has given you all you need through His Holy Spirit to live a fulfilling, meaningful life that is pleasing to Him.

So...Go and live it...THE SANCTIFIED LIFE!

SET APART FROM THE COMMON AND PROFANE AND...SET APART TO GOD