

Series: The Coming of the Lord; Sermon: **A Life that Pleases God**
delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on March 14, 2021

Bible text explored: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹²so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. In this second section of his letter, Paul responds to questions the Thessalonians had raised about living a life pleasing to God. But what (*verses 1-2*) is their status, and on what remembered encounter with Jesus was it based? Why is increasingly living this kind of life impossible for anyone who has not experienced a saving encounter with the Lord Jesus?
2. If purity is such a prominent divine requirement (*verses 3-8*), why is lack of sexual self-control so widespread?
For what action (*verses 7-8*) is God clearly calling?
Since God avenges adulterous sin, how seriously should we take our accountability for purity?
The words “know how” in *verse 4* should be understood as “learn.” What resolve and discipline is essential for abandoning lust and achieving sexual self-control?
The Greek word for love among siblings (philadelphia) was quickly adopted in the New Testament to mean love of fellow believers in Christ.
3. What kind of community (*verses 9-10*) were the Thessalonian believers “taught by God” to be?
4. How did Jesus demonstrate the essence of this community?
(See *John 13:4-5, 12-15, 34-35.*)
5. What approach (*verses 11-12*) should we take to our workaday world?
When done well, is the work we do itself pleasing to God?
Is our gospel commitment crowded out by cares, riches, or pleasures?
(See *Luke 8:14.*)
Does how we provide for our families or share with others win us respect?