

FUTURE HOPE

Living For God's Pleasure
In View of Christ's Coming



**Recall a friend or a family member
who encouraged you recently.**

What did he say ?

1 Thessalonians 4:1

A Life Pleasing to God

4 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.*

1 Tesalonica 4:1 Ang Salita ng Diyos

Mamuhay nang Kalugud-lugod sa Diyos

4 Sa katapus-tapusan, mga kapatid, aming hinihiling at matapat na **hinihikayat kayo** sa Panginoong Jesus na sumagana kayo nang higit pa sa natutunan ninyo mula sa amin, kung paano kayo dapat mamuhay at magbigay-lugod sa Diyos.

1 Tesalonica 4:1 Magandang Balita Biblia

Ang Buhay na Nakalulugod sa Diyos

4 Kaya nga, mga kapatid, isa pang bagay ang **ipinapakiusap** namin at **ipinapayo** sa inyo sa pangalan ng Panginoong Jesus. Sana'y **lalo pa ninyong pagbutihin** ang inyong pamumuhay ngayon, sang-ayon sa inyong natutunan sa amin, upang kayo'y maging kalugud-lugod sa Diyos.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

11 For you know how, like a father with his children,
12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you
and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who
calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the
gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your
faith, 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you
yourselves know that we are destined for this.

While the first part of this letter recounts all that had happened so far, *the rest focuses on instructions for the believers*, especially as they waited in hope for Christ's glorious return. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy *urged* the *Church to walk in 1) holiness, 2) love, and 3) peace.* Fueled by a desire to please God alone.

#1

Walk in God's holiness

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

7 For God has not called us for impurity,
but in holiness.

8 Therefore whoever disregards this,
disregards not man but God,
who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification that you ***abstain from sexual immorality***; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

I think that we need to keep 2 things in mind.

First, those in Thessalonica were new believers. It was only a matter of months since Paul was in Thessalonica, when many of them were converted. Second, those in Thessalonica were from a society that openly celebrated immorality. One author wrote that in their society, "chastity was an unknown virtue."

- Thessalonica was probably not so different than other cities in Greece at the time. Thessalonica would certainly have been influenced by the culture in Corinth, where nightly 1,000 prostitutes from the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, would descend upon the streets to ply their trade. On top of that, Thessalonica was a popular Greek seaport, which would have afforded it temptations of its own. Seaports have always been notorious for the riff-raff who come upon the city by way of the sea. Those in *Thessalonica were new believers, who were trying to live out their Christianity in the midst of an openly immoral society.* To abstain from sexual immorality was probably a new concept to them. Perhaps they saw this in the lives of the Jewish men and women at the synagogue, but they were definitely the minority. Those in Thessalonica were new believers, who were trying to live out their Christianity in the midst of an openly immoral society.

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#2

Walk in God's love.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

9 Now 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, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more.

1 Tesalonica 4:9-10

9 Tungkol naman sa ***pag-ibig*** na dapat iukol sa mga kapatid, hindi na kailangang paalalahanan pa kayo dahil ***itinuro na sa inyo ng Diyos*** kung paano kayo magmahalan. **10** At ito na nga ang ginagawa ninyo sa mga kapatid sa buong Macedonia. Gayunman, ipinapakiusap pa rin namin sa inyo, mga kapatid, ***na pag-ibayuhin pa ninyo ang inyong pag-ibig.***

The Thessalonian Church was already an example of brotherly love, but Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy still reminded them to do this more and more. Loving others is **not one event** or a box we can check off our to-do-list. It's something we do in obedience to God's love in greater ways, we can love others too.



Your love for one another
will prove to the world
that you are my disciples.

John 13:35 (New Living Translation)

#3

Walk in God's peace.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

11 and to aspire to live quietly,
and to mind your own affairs,
and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,
12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders
and be dependent on no one.

Because the Thessalonian believers thought that Christ's return was *very imminent*, some of them stopped working.

They became idle and were even like parasites, totally relying on others for their daily needs.

Some became busybodies, minding other's business instead of their own.

But even if we are waiting for our future hope, we are called to live in peace by working and living our lives so as not to be a burden and annoyance to others.

This hard work and dependence on God becomes a testimony to those who don't know Him yet.

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- ▶ Knowing that Christ will return one day, how do you think you ought to live? What did you learn today and how will you apply it in your life?
- ▶ How can you walk in God's holiness, love and peace? Which of the three do you need God's grace and strength for the most? Why?
- ▶ How can your life be a reflection of Christ? What is one thing you do starting this week so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.