



Introduction

Paul changes his tone at this point as he turns his thoughts to the main point of his letter. He now urges and charges his flock with the authority of a father. The Christian walk, not only begins with faith, but it continues in their daily conduct. The daily walk of a Christian depends entirely on God.

Paul charged them to have a walk worthy of the God they served. Sexual purity was a problem for the early church, as the pagan religions all around them condoned sexual immorality as a part of their rites. The culture of the day had relatively few boundaries, much like the world we live in today. Sanctification and holiness were to be a mark of genuine faith. The church at Thessalonica was already known for their love of the brethren, so Paul encouraged them not to be content that they had arrived, but to increase more and more.

Finally, he takes the opportunity to expound on the concerns they had about the Second Coming of Christ, giving them a hope for their future with the Lord.

Treasures of the Heart

... we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?



1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; 11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, 12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.



Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn - What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Eagerly looking for Christ's return is an evidence of salvation, a motivation for soul winning and an encouragement for holy living. Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends with a reference to the return of Christ, and that truth is applied to daily living. See if you can find it and **state these truths in your own words.**

State the reference to Christ's return.

How is it applied to daily living?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

"Christians sorrow, because God made us to weep; but it is not the hopeless sorrow of the world. Jesus is coming again, and that means reunion and eternal rejoicing!" Warren Wiersbe

