

The Will of God

Lesson 17: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

April 28, 2019

Outline of the Letter

- 1:1-4 Introduction
- 1:5-3:13 Gospel ministry (**Faith**)
 - 1:5-10 The gospel among the Thessalonians
 - 2:1-16 Gospel ministry by Paul
 - 2:17-3:13 Mutual love in the gospel
- 4:1-5:22 Godly living (Love and Hope)
 - 4:1-12 Living to please God (**Love**)
 - 4:1-8 Love for God: Sanctification
 - 4:9-12 Love for believers
 - 4:13-5:11 The coming of the Lord (**Hope**)
 - 4:13-18 The coming of the Lord for believers
 - 5:1-11 The day of the Lord for unbelievers
 - 5:12-22 Exhortations (**Love**)
- 5:23-28 Conclusion

Lesson Outline

- 4:1-5:22 Godly living (Love and Hope)
 - 4:1-12 Living to please God (**Love**)
 - 4:1-8 Love for God: Sanctification
 - 4:9-12 Love for believers
 - 4:9-10 Their existing love
 - 4:11-12 Growing in love
 - 4:13-5:11 The coming of the Lord (**Hope**)
 - 4:13-18 The coming of the Lord for believers
 - 4:13-14 The dead in Christ
 - 4:15-17 Christ's coming
 - 4:18 Response to Christ's coming
 - 5:1-11 The day of the Lord for unbelievers

Love for God: Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

¹Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. ²For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority* of the Lord Jesus.

- Transition to new section
- Walk/live to please God more and more
- The commands they gave them were from the Lord

Love for God: Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

³For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**; *that is, that* you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴**that** each of you know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification** and honor, ⁵not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶*and that* no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*. ⁷For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in **sanctification**. ⁸So, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

- Sanctification

- To abstain from sexual immorality
- To know how to possess one's own vessel
 - Holiness
 - Honor
- To not transgress or defraud one's brother in this matter

- Vessel

- One's own body
- One's own wife

Love for believers

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

⁹Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹²so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

- The exhortation
 - Excel still more in love
 - Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life
 - Attend to your own business
 - Work with your hands
- Purpose
 - To behave properly towards unbeliever
 - To not be in need

The coming of the Lord for believers

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are **asleep**, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen **asleep** in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are **alive and remain** until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen **asleep**. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven **with** a shout, **with** the voice of *the* archangel and **with** the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are **alive and remain** will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- Those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will also rise as He did
- At the Lord's coming
 1. Those who have fallen asleep
 2. Those alive and remaining
- At the Lord's return
 - A shout
 - The voice of the archangel
 - The trumpet of God
- The Lord's future coming is comfort for believers

Summary

- We cannot stagnate in the Christian life, we need to excel still more
- God's will is our sanctification
- God teaches us to love one another
- Proper Christian behavior is leading a quiet life, attending to our own business, and working
- Jesus' resurrection means resurrection for those who fall asleep in Him
- The dead in Christ will rise before those who are alive are caught up
- The Lord's return needs to be a comfort to us