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

3 For 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, 5 not 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. 7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. 8 So, 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, and 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, so 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