

**LOOKING FOR JESUS**  
*"The Importance of Holiness"*  
**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The church was planted during Paul's second missionary journey.
  - a) Paul, Silas and Timothy came there.
  - b) **Acts 17:1-14**
2. **2:17-20**
3. **The Believers @ Thessalonica were "Contagious Christians"**
  - a) **1:1-10**
4. **They were faithful in the Gospel**
  - a) **2:1-12**
5. **They were faithful in the midst of trials.**
  - a) **3:1-13**
  - b) **2 kinds of faith**
    - 1) The "if" kind
    - 2) The "though" kind
6. **VERY IMPORTANT:** As Christians we must be very careful of redefining God to fit our own agenda.
  - a) We redefine when we don't stay focused on facts.
  - b) **ILLUSTRATION:** Transgender Woman Breaks Women's Powerlifting Records
7. As Christians we must be careful not to redefine God's standards.
  - a) When we do that we redefine sex, marriage, Family
  - b) **BUT GOD DOES NOT CHANGE**
  - c) We call this the Immutability of God.
    - 1) **Psalm 119:89**
8. **Church** - *"Gradually the unthinkable becomes tolerable, then acceptable, then legal, then praised."*
9. **Very Important:** God's fundamental attribute is His **holiness!!!**
  - a) **Isaiah 6** - the Seraphim said "**Holy, Holy, Holy**" not "**Love, Love, Love**"
  - b) **BUT GOD'S LOVE FLOWS FROM HIS HOLINESS**

10. Notice 3:13

- a) "**establish your hearts**" - to be fixed or firm
- b) "**blameless in holiness**" -
- c) "**before**" - only God know the true intentions of your heart.

11. **WOW!!!** It is possible for Christians to redefine who God is!!!

a) **Jeremiah 17:9**

- 1) You are 100% bad.

12. In Chapter 4 Paul focuses on "**The Importance of Holiness**"

13. In 4:1-12 Paul deals with the doctrine of Sanctification.

- a) **Justification** - is when we get saved. We are then declared righteous.
- b) **Sanctification** - means that because of our Sanctification we are set apart and reserved for God and His glory.
  - 1) **1 Corinthians 6:20**
- c) **Glorification** - when we are in the presence of God and the war is over.

14. Now there are 3 tenses of Sanctification.

a) **Past** (Positional)

- 1) **4:7**

b) **Present** (Progressive)

- 1) **4:3**

c) **Future** (Perfect)

- 1) **3:13, 4:13-18**

## I. WHAT HOLY LIVING DOES

### A. IT PLEASES GOD

1. Vs 1

- a) "**walk**" - is your lifestyle

2. Vs 2

3. Vs 3a

- a) "**For this is the will of God**"
- b) "**you're sanctification**"

4. **Romans 12:1-2**

## B. IT PROGRESSES

### 1. Vs 1b

- a) *"how you ought to walk and please God"*
- b) Wow!!! *"just as you are doing, that you do more and more"*

### 2. *Philippians 1:6*

- a) God is at work in every believer.

## C. KEEPS US PURE

### 1. Vs 3b

- a) *"that you abstain from sexual immorality"*

### 2. QUESTION: So what exactly is God for?

### 3. 2 Areas of impurity that we need to correct:

#### a) The Physical Aspect

##### 1) Vs 4

- a. Again this may very well be the first time these Christians heard this standard.

#### b) The Mental Aspect

##### 1) Vs 5

##### a. *"The passion of lust"*

- Thoughts
- Movies
- Pornography
- Magazines

- b. All a violation of God's standard of separation.

##### c. *James 1:12-15*

### 4. THE WARNING: Vs 6

- a) *"because the Lord is an avenger in all such things"*

## D. IT KEEPS US ACCOUNTABLE

### 1. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

### 2. *Romans 6:13*

## **E. IT TRANSFORMS US**

### **1. Vs 5**

a) *"who do not know God"*

**2. Paul's point:** If we live ungodly lives redefining what God has said, we look just like those who don't know God.

## **F. IT GIVES US A TESTIMONY**

### **1. To live humbly**

a) Vs 11a

1) *"aspire to live quietly"*

b) Vs 11b

1) *"and to mind your own affairs"*

c) Vs 11c

1) *"and to work with your hands"*

### **2. To live honestly**

a) Vs 12

b) An honest person is transparent, keeps his promises, and is responsible.