

INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

DEDUCTIVE LESSON FOUR

1 Thessalonians 4

Day One: Verses 1–8

Read through all of 1 Thessalonians 4. Then reread verses 1–8 and answer the following questions

1. What do Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy urge and exhort the Thessalonians to do (verses 1–2)?

2. What instructions do they give the Thessalonians, in verses 3–5?

Terms and Definitions: Sanctification

The word sanctification is mentioned twice in the above verses. Sanctification is “the process of God’s grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God’s righteousness. Accomplished by the Word of God (John 17:7) and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:3–4), sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin.”ⁱ

3. Many people think that sexual sin only affects those who practice it, but other relationships are always affected as well. How does verse 6 describe this sin?

4. What word is used to describe the Lord, in verse 6?

5. What do the following passages have to say about sexual purity?

1 Corinthians 6:13–18

Ephesians 5:3–5

Hebrews 13:4

Scripture Memory: We continue our memorization of 1 Thessalonians 5:11–22. This week’s verse is verse 15:

“See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15 NKJV

Day Two: Verses 1–8

Read through 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 again.

1. Verse 8 says that God has given us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift! God not only gave His Son, to die for our sins, but He has given us His Spirit to dwell within us, and to “pour out the love of God in our hearts” (Romans 5:5). What do you learn about the gift of the Holy Spirit in the following verses?

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

“See that no one renders evil for evil to _____, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for ____.” 1 Thessalonians __:___

Day Three: Verses 9–12

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12.

1. What compliment did Paul give to the Thessalonians, and what did he urge them to do, in verses 9–10?

2. That three things did Paul instruct them to do in verse 11?

3. Why? (Verse 12)

Today, let’s look at two men who seem to fit the description found in today’s verses: Joseph and Andrew.

4. Read through the following passages and write down anything that strikes you about the character of Joseph: Matthew 1:18–25 and 2:13–23

5. Now, do the same thing for Andrew: John 1:35–42; Mark 1:14–18; John 6:5–11; John 12:20–22

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

“See that no one renders _____ for _____ to _____, but always pursue what is good both for _____ and for _____.” — Thessalonians __:__

Day Four: Verses 13–18

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. These verses speak of the event that is called the Rapture of the church. We will look closer at the Rapture tomorrow. For today, let’s focus our attention on verse 13, and the subject of hope.

Verse 13 seems to indicate that there may have been some confusion and/or despair among the Thessalonians regarding the Christians who had died. Since the time that Jesus departed this earth, His church has been anxiously awaiting His return, based on His promises. These early church members of Thessalonica probably assumed (understandably) that this promise of return would be fulfilled in their lifetime, but then some of them died. Others wondered if dead believers had somehow missed out on Christ’s return and/or His promises of hope and eternal life. Paul reassures them that the dead in Christ will not be “left out” when Christ returns for His people.

1. What promise of hope did Jesus give to His disciples, in John 14:1–3?

2. What do these verses tell us about hope?

Romans 8:24 and 2 Corinthians 4:18

Psalms 146:5

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 6:19

Romans 5:3-5

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

"See that no one _____ for _____ to _____, but always _____ what is _____ both for _____ and for _____." _____ Thessalonians _____:_____

Day Five: Verses 14–18

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.

1. The writers of this epistle describe those who have died as “asleep” in verse 14. What point is made in this verse?

2. 1 Corinthians 15:20 is similar to 1 Thessalonians 4:14. What does it say?

Terms and Definitions: Rapture

“The catching up of believers by Christ at the time of His return. The word came into use by way of the Latin *rapiō* used to translate the Greek term of 1 Thessalonians 4:17, *harpageesometha*. Living believers are said to be “caught up” to meet the Lord at His coming.”ⁱⁱ

3. What will happen when Christ comes back for His church?

4. Verse 18 instructs us to comfort one another with these words. What comforting thought is found in the previous sentence?

5. What does 1 Corinthians 15:51–55 tell us?

6. What does Philippians 3:20–21 say?

7. An Old Testament picture of the Rapture can be found in the taking of Enoch. What do Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5–6 say about Enoch?

Scripture Memory: Write this week's Scripture Memory verse completely from memory.

" _____

_____."
_____ : _____

Day Six: Personal Application

1. The word for "sexual immorality" found in 1 Thessalonians 4:3, is the Greek word porneia, from which we derive our English word pornography. Pornography is something that has become rampant in this day and age. It is especially prevalent among men, and has infiltrated the church. If you struggle in this area, notice God's instruction in verse three: abstain. Seek prayer from your group leader and distance yourself from anything that can tempt you from abstaining. If this is not an area of struggle for you, use the next few minutes to pray for the body of men at Harvest for which this is an issue.

2. On Day Two, we took a closer look at the Holy Spirit. Write out a short prayer, thanking God for His gift of the Holy Spirit and inviting the Spirit to fill you afresh.

3. "Aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands" (1 Thessalonians 4:11). Many of us may feel that we have this instruction taken care of. But do we? Ask the Spirit to use these words to show you how to improve your Christian walk, so that "you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing" (verse 12). Write your thoughts on the subject below.

4. On Day Four we looked at the topic of hope. List ten words you associate with the word hope.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Verses 17 and 18 tell us "And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." Think of someone you know who could be comforted by these words, and write their name or initials below. Then seek out an opportunity to encourage them with the thought of Christ's imminent return.

Scripture Memory: Can you write all four of your Scripture Memory passages below?

" _____

_____ "

