

Chapter four of Thessalonians begins the closing portion of Paul's letter. Here he transitions toward some final thoughts that deal with specific encouragement and a charge to continue a process of obedient living in order to please God.

1 Thessalonians

4:1-12

Living a

Sanctified

Life

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

It's not uncommon, for some Christians, to feel like they're never going to attain the kind of character they perceive God wants them to achieve. For others, their struggle may be one of negligence, feeling like their development and continued growth in Christ is not a big deal. In reality, both attitudes are serious ruts we need to avoid.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW would you describe your spiritual journey since becoming a Christian?

WHEN you consider areas of continued growth in your personal walk with the Lord, what issues come to mind?

WHAT are the areas of sin or struggle that tend to hold you back the most?

WHAT were the most helpful resources utilized in overcoming the "nagging" areas of sin and struggle in your life?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

4:1-12

Living a Sanctified Life

OBSERVATION

in vs. 1, what's Paul's final request for the Thessalonians?

In vs. 2, what does Paul say the Thessalonians already know?

According to vs. 3, what is God's will and how does Paul go on to describe it in vs. 3-6?

How does Paul specifically describe God in vs. 6?

What does Paul remind his audience that God has called them to?

What has He *not* called them to? (vs. 7)

According to vs. 8, what is true of someone who disregards Paul's words?

In vs.9-11, what other topics does Paul address for his audience?

As you read vs. 12, what do you see as Paul's purpose of this address?

INTERPRETATION

What does the phrase "in the Lord Jesus" (vs. 1) mean? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:16-17.

What does *sanctification* mean?

Explain why a proper understanding of our *position* in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-17) and our continued sanctification in Him is so important.

Who is the "brother" mentioned in vs. 6?

Why do you think Paul mentions that the Lord is "an avenger in these things" in vs. 6?

Explain the difference between "disregarding" and "not knowing". Does it appear that the Thessalonians knew of the things Paul mentions in this section? Why do you think so? (Consider vs. 1)

Why might it be important to the Lord that those in Thessalonica (and us today) conduct ourselves differently from others around us (vs. 12)? Consider 1 Peter 2:12

APPLICATION

How serious do you take your sanctification? What does a willing step toward continued sanctification *in Christ* look like for you today?