

FINISH STRONG

A Strong Finish Requires a Focused Race
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

• A focused daily WALK with God

Paul's FINAL request vs. 1-2

- 'how you ought to WALK and PLEASE God'
- 'EXCEL still more'; 'by the AUTHORITY of the Lord Jesus'

Two areas to 'excel' still more'

• Excel in PROGRESSIVE sanctification vs. 3-8

- Sanctification = moving from a worldly usage to a CONSECRATED sacred use
- Our FREEDOM, because of the Cross, to completely consecrate an area of our humanity and walk in purity within that area.

• SEXUAL Purity was their area that needed sanctification

▶ TEMPTER'S tempting; cultural ENDORSEMENT;
personal PAST vs. 3

▶ Acquire MASTERY over your body vs. 4-5

▶ REJECTING sanctification has consequences vs. 6-8

• Excel in the LOVE of the brethren vs. 9-12

• COLLECTIVE ambitions

▶ 'lead a QUIET life'; 'attend to your own BUSINESS';
'work with your HANDS'

▶ Results: 'behave properly toward OUTSIDERS;
'not be in any NEED'

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 20, 2020

1 Thessalonians 4:1 *Finally 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.*

DISCOVER (read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

1. In which verses of this passage do you find Paul's exhortations and encouragement to continue living lives worthy of God? In which verses are you reminded of the essentials of the Christian faith?
2. According to this passage, what is God's will?
3. What is sanctification? Why is our sanctification a priority to God?

EXPLORE

1. Why do you think Paul chose to address sexual immorality and purity?
2. Re-read vv. 4-6. What does Paul mean? How would you paraphrase this passage?

EXPERIENCE

1. How does sanctification and avoiding sexual immorality affect you? How does it affect others around you?
2. How can you excel even more in your personal sanctification? Identify specific areas in your life that need to be consecrated.
3. In vv. 11-12, Paul is writing to a specific situation in Thessalonica. Some of the people in the church were taking advantage of other members and living off of charity. Paul speaks directly to them and tells them to be responsible and develop a good work ethic. How would that apply to us today?
4. What special things can you do to show love to others? When they are pregnant? Getting married? Have a newborn? Are sick? Have a death in the family? What regular things can you do to show love to others even if they are not facing any special situations?

PRAY

Ask God to reveal areas in your life that need sanctification. Pray that He would show you Jesus' examples of a focused and holy life; that God would show you how you ought to walk and to please Him. Ask God to open your eyes to the circumstances around the brethren in your life so that you can apply how "you ought to walk." Pray that you would excel even more!