

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-18 — AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Session 8 Homework — Feb 16, 2022

BY WAY OF REVIEW

1 This book is unique in that every chapter ends with a reference to the second coming of Christ (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23). With Paul's emphasis on steadfastness and holy living, an appropriate theme for 1 Thessalonians and its key verses might be:

Holiness in view of the coming of Christ

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do
for you,
so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints” (1 Th 3:12-13).

2 Chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians contains a series of instructions given by the Apostle Paul that will guide the church to progress in holiness, love, diligence, and hope in view of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Urging them to abound more and more so that they might please God, he first focuses on their sanctification and the need to abstain from sexual immorality. What were the objectives for the last session?

3 Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 daily to prepare for your study. Review the four ways the believer is to “walk” (or live one's life).

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-18 THE WILL OF GOD: YOUR SANCTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18 continues Paul's instruction to the church. He urges them to increase more and more in brotherly love, even though they had been taught by God to love one another and had done so (vv 9-10). Further, he urges them to lead quiet lives, mind their own business, and to work with their own hands to “walk properly before outsiders” (vv 11-12). Finally, Paul addresses the matter of believers who have died. He did not want the Thessalonians to sorrow over them as others who have no hope. This leads to a description of the Lord's coming for His

saints, especially as it relates to how those who are alive at His coming will not precede those who have died. Indeed, when the Lord comes from heaven, the dead in Christ will rise first, and we who are alive and remain will at that time be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air— to “always be with the Lord” (vv 13-18).

Our objectives for this passage:

1) To understand how the Christian should increase more and more in such matters as obedience, holiness, love, and diligence.

2) To appreciate the precious hope and comfort our Lord has given to us by revealing His plan to reunite us with our redeemed loved ones at His second coming and especially to gather us to Himself that we will “always be with the Lord.”

4 Why did Paul not need to write to the Thessalonians about brotherly love? Yet what does he urge them to do?

5 Scripture instructs us to love one another. Record what the following verses have to say about this: Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22: 36-40; John 13:34-35; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 4:16-21; 5:1-2.

6 In what ways are you intentionally practicing love for fellow believers? And how can you increase still more?

7 In verse 10, the phrase “do this more and more” is used again to emphasize what important Christian doctrine?

8 In Blue Letter Bible, look up 1 Thessalonians 4:10 and click on tools (to the left) and then bibles. What words do other translations use for the phrase “do this more and more”?

9 What three things does Paul encourage them to do to walk properly toward outsiders and be lacking in nothing?

10 Scripture addresses the issue of working and attending to your own business in other letters. What do you learn from the following verses? Be thorough:

> Romans 12:11, 13

> Ephesians 4:28

> 2 Thessalonians 3:7-15

> Titus 3:14

11 In verses 13-18 Paul clears up some confusion regarding believers who have died. Verses 13-14 form Paul's thesis statement. What does he say to the Thessalonians?

12 Paul explains his answer logically in verse 14 stating, "For since... even so...." What is his line of reasoning?

(Compare with 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 for more insight.)

13 In the Blue Letter Bible, explore the word translated "coming" in v 15. Summarize both the Strong's and Vine's entries.

> Strong's G3952 (Gk *parousia*):

> Vine's Entry:

14 List the order of events of the *parousia* (Jesus' second coming) in vv 16-17.

15 The words “caught up” in v 17 is called the rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 5:25-29; and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 are key texts that discuss this event. Read the references and record what you learn about the rapture of the Christ’s Church.

16 In view of the coming events, what should we do (v. 18)? How does Christ’s soon coming bring you comfort right now in your own life’s circumstances?