

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF  
**THESSALONIANS**

CHAPTER 4:1-8

MEDIA REFERENCE SM 231 ~ MAY 19, 1996

**TITLE:**

**" HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO WALK "**  
**AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST**

**THEME:**

*1 Thessalonians 1:10*

*"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

I can Remember Growing Up, and having a tendency to basically do what I wanted to do... and if my friends didn't want to do that thing - well then I would just pack up my G.I. Joe action figure and Tonka truck and head for home... Who needs those guys....

It's against human nature to be teachable and to be open to learning as we grow older... #1 for one thing, we easily forget what we've just learned. #2 is... I have forgotten what #2 is. But #3 is that the more colorful, vivid, and personal the lesson is, the greater the tendency there is to remember it because... **IT WAS APPLICABLE TO MY LIFE - ME PERSONALLY**

**That Makes it Very Wonderful  
- or Very Unsettling**

Paul has been teaching the church at Thessalonica the "How To's" of the Christian Walk of Faith...

How A Church Ought to Be / How a Leader Ought to Be / How a Church Ought to be Loved / How Church Ought to Stand - **How a Church Ought to Walk**

Because of the Nearness of the Imminent Return of Jesus Christ in the Atmosphere for His church - Rapture

Chapter 4 teaches us, what our actual & practical conduct of living should be if we are going to believe the Bible - Expecting His return!

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

# You Can Look at this Portion of scripture in a Couple of Ways

#1

**IS IN THE "GOMER PYLE / SERGEANT CARTER" MOOD AND MEANING:**  
where the training and instructions are seen and given in harsh & almost violent commands

#2

**IS IN THE LIGHT OF AN ALL-LOVING GOD WHO NOT ONLY KNOWS ALL** things but has in fact created you  
and knows what is the very best for you...

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GOD DESIRES HIS BEST FOR YOU

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There are **5** Practical Exhortations  
for Us to **GRAB** on to

1.) Walking The Christian Walk vv. 1-2

## Verse 1

Paul Has Direct and Intentional Words for Them  
(Eager to have them embrace it)

Paul Uses an **Unusual word for Brethren** here. - "brothers together" on "the same level", in the "same situations", in the "same life" - of understanding

Paul Used this Term only when mentioning **the churches in Macedonia**  
(he seemed to be extra concerned for them for particular reasons)

## a) They Had Been Excessive in the World

In Thessalonica,

Because their **belief system was a pagan**, self-worshipping, pleasure seeking, humanistic culture, the result was excessive indulgence into whatever felt good to them (They Argued that there were no absolutes, that each man establishes his own morality)

- **if it feels good do it!**
- **Look out for number one**

Judges 17:6  
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

b) That they would be EXCESSIVE in godliness

\* Urge GRK 2065 erotao (er-o-tah'-o)  
to interrogate; to demand, as to pray.

\* Exhort GRK 3870 parakaleo (par-ak-al-eh'-o)  
to call near. To invite to be of good comfort,

like Firm Fatherly Love Toward a Son

Practical Exhortation #1

“THAT you should abound more and more, just as you received from us  
how you ought to walk and to please God”

Walk GRK 4043 peripateo (per-ee-pat-eh'-o)  
to walk on, to walk at large. To be going somewhere

*Walking in the Mall - OR - Walking the Mall*

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who **walks** not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor **stands** in the path of sinners,  
nor **sits** in the seat of the scornful;

\* Abound GRK 4052 perisseuo (per-is-syoo'-o)  
to superabound in quantity and quality to be excessive, to have  
more than enough to spare! (To be leaping Onward)

IT IS A PROGRESSIVE WALK

Not Walking in Place, but making Progress

Our Walk is to be Progressive

**we are never told nor allowed to stop along the  
route**

((And So, Are We Abounding?))

c) and that their focus was to be the Father

as you received from us how you ought to walk **and to please God;**

## Motivation is the Issue Here

to keep His commands by Obligation - will lead to Bum out & burn out  
But to keep His Commands by Pleasure - will always lead to Peace

### Verse 2

What Commandments?

Does God still Do Commandments?

**Commandments** GRK Military Term used to give instructions concerning an attack...

We are not under God's law as it relates to our Salvation

We are under God's moral Law as it relates to Conduct

many Christians think that they can now go sin and just ask for forgiveness

**HEY! GOD GETS TO BE GOD - EVERY TIME - IT'S MY TURN!**

...and He gives Commands - is that O.K. with you ?

(He loves you - but He doesn't care a "HALO" what you think about it)

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**HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE ROOTED IN LOVE**

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**"Through the Lord Jesus"**

**THESE ARE GENERAL JESUS' ORDERS - NOT MINE !!!**

Yes Lord I will do that - Because I know He loves  
me

Verse 3a

What do we know for sure  
- this is what we know for sure

**“For this is the will of God..... your sanctification”**

a) Knowing God’s Perfect Will, Sanctification !

\* Sanctification GRK 38 **hagiasmos** (hag-ee-as-mos')  
The work of the Holy Spirit to #1 set a man apart from the world for the purposes of God by a moment by moment growth. but also #2 to enable that man to be recorded as holy even as God is Holy, by the finished work of Christ

**Because Jesus Died for me - I can now live for Jesus  
(IT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)**

1 Thessalonians 5:23

**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify** you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Where there is no sanctification - no personal holiness  
(you’re doing the things that the world does)

Where there is no spiritual growth in someone’s life, there is a real problem with that persons relationship to the Holy Spirit

How Active & Present is God in Your Life

IS GOD ACTIVE & PRESENT IN **THE MOVIES** YOU WATCH?  
IS GOD ACTIVE & PRESENT IN **THE HOBBIES** YOU DO?  
IS GOD ACTIVE & PRESENT IN **THE LEISURE TIME** YOU SPEND?

Practical Exhortation #2

Verse 3b

**“that you should abstain from sexual immorality”**

**The Thessalonian Culture** was the worst - teen sex was expected for religious offerings - it was the willful offering of the parents to give their child up for hours to whomever desired to worship - even wives & husbands had to participate in the worship of these Greek gods

\* **Abstain** **GRK 567 apechomai (ap-ekh'-om-ahee)**  
to hold yourself back from. To fight back

**Abstinence is not only Safe it's Wise & Godly**  
IT PRESERVES THE SOUL OF EVERYONE WHO PRACTICES IT

Abstinence is the way to recovery in "Body, Soul, and Spirit"

**NO MORE TTTING OF YOUR SOULS TO THEM ANY LONGER**

\* **Sexual Immorality GRK 4202 porneia (por-ni'-ah) PORNOGRAPHY**  
It appears in the Bible as the following acts: #1 Adultery.  
#2 Fornication. #3 Incest. #4 both male & female Prostitution. #5 Homosexuality  
#6 Bestiality

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Holy Spirit of our God.

WHICH MEANS I CAN SAY NO TO ANY ADVANCEMENT - BY THE SPIRIT

**(THERE'S A WAR ON THE INSIDE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN)**

The Heart and Mind of Every Christian is a Battlefield

**The Ordination of the Sexually Immoral**

(We Cannot Apologize for What God has Said...)

- Truth Cannot Apologize
- Love Cannot Hate

God loves the Sexually Immoral - but He will not forgive them until they Repent

Please Hear Me On This... (my first & last original thought)

I Understood Why God said it was Wrong, But I began to Wonder why my **Evolutionary Friends** were not running to my side on this issue...

Even though the theory of **Evolution is wrong**, Homosexuality cannot fit its model for man's evolution!

**"HOMOSEXUALITY IN EVERY CASE AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES,  
IS 100% FATAL TO THE PROPAGATION OF THE SPECIES"**

There are no gay elephants - there are no gay whales - there are no gay monkeys... That's a Fact - because they are still here with us today!

**(THE GAY LIFESTYLE IS NOT GENETIC, IT'S A REACTION)**

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There's Perfect Love behind  
every Commandment of God

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How should the church walk?  
well dressed & prepared!

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

the reason for wearing "such apparel"  
is given by Paul in the preceding verses

Ephesians 6:12-13

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, (that would be easy) but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places - (Satanic/Demonic Forces) Therefore take up the whole armor of God,

**3.) Walking in a Responsible Manner vv. 4-5**

**Practical Exhortation #3**

**THAT** each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

\* **Vessel** GRK 4632 skeuos (skyoo'-os)  
a sailing ship used for long voyages and all the tools needed for the journey- Your personal stuff

**How do you manage your Body**  
what you wear & how you wear it - must not cause another to stumble

(Girls - You should ask the Lord "will this cause a guy to stumble?)  
(Guys - You should think before you talk or do something that will stumble)

## Govern your Body like a Ships Captain Helms a Vessel

They Gave themselves away to the passion of the moment

2 Timothy 2:21

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. **Flee also youthful lusts**; ..... but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace..... with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**Encourage Your Wife / Husband / Son & Daughter towards Godliness!** - (They Want Someone Who Cares for them to Tell Them - DON'T GO TO HER HOUSE... STAY AWAY FROM THOSE KIDS... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO THERE

>>>>> I NEEDED TO HEAR A VOICE <<<<<<

## proverbs 7

Proverbs 7:16

I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works,  
with fine linen of Egypt.

1 Corinthians 6:15

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:1

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.** (Paul Can We Touch A Woman?)



\* **Touch** GRK 681 **hapto (hap'-to)**  
to be suggestive towards intimacy. to kindle a flame - to set on fire - to burn.

(MEN - I ASK YOU - NEED I SAY MORE)

**THIS IS WHY THE DATING GAME,  
IS GAME OF RUSSIAN ROULETTE**

THERE'S NO DATING AMONG THE YOUTH GROUP

(((( \*#\$&@#@#)&^%%^\*%#\*(^\$^&^ ))))

1 Corinthians 7:2-3

Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. :3 Let the husband **render** to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

**4.) We are to Walk Separate from the world vv. 6-7**

**Practical Exhortation #4**

**Verse 6**

**In the KJV -**

That no man **go beyond** and defraud his brother

**In the NKJV -**

That no man should **take advantage** and defraud his brother

\* **Defraud** GRK 4122 **pleonekteo (pleh-on-cek-teh'-o);**  
to over-reach the boundaries. To take what is not yours, to use for your advantage,. To defraud is to Rob or to Steal (in the context, it is their Virginity)

**Brother means Brother as in a woman's husband,  
but brother also means as a fellow Christian sister**

**PAUL IS WARNING THAT A CHRISTIAN MUST NEVER PUT SOMEONE ELSE IN A POSITION OF  
TEMPTATION - TO SENSE THE PRESSURE TO SIN**

(Attention Married Couple, Singles & Youth:  
According to this Passage, flirting is an act of enticement - to arouse)

### **DO YOU WANNA SEE SOME ACTION**

- Entice someone's wife or daughter to have sex and watch what happens

#### **God Warns Us in Proverbs 6:34**

for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy  
when he takes revenge.

### **DO YOU WANNA SEE SOME ACTION**

- Entice one of God's children to have sex and watch what happens

#### **Matthew 18:6-7**

But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. :7 "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!"

#### **Verse 7**

"For God **(did not call)** us to uncleanness, but in holiness."

### **" HOW A CHURCH SHOULD WALK "**

#### **IS WITH ITS PANTS UP AROUND IT'S WAIST...**

you can have the armor of the spirit on in just the right place, **but if your pants are down because of immorality...** you're not able to battle - THERE'S A DRAFT

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### **SATAN CAN SEE THAT TARGET FROM 40,000 FT.**

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**5.) Walking with God - Willingly**

**vv. 8**

**Practical Exhortation #5**

#### **Verse 8**

**God's Commandment is Holiness**

# God, Marriage & Sex

## Know Me, Get Married & Do It

1 Corinthians 7:5

Do not withhold one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

**Verses 7&8** are tied directly to **verse 13** of chapter 3  
That a failure to obey God in this area could jeopardize your readiness

- Have you ever seen a dog that is being leash trained ?
- Have you ever seen a horse that is being saddled trained ?

(The Will Must Be Brought Under Control)

Genesis 5:24

And Enoch **walked** with God; and he was not, for God took him.

\*

**Walked**     **HEB 1980 halak (haw-lak')**;

to walk along, to come, to depart, to enter, to exercise, to go forward, to get, to go up and to go down, to run fast, to walk slow, to be passing through

Being holy for His coming is being ready, being ready is being watchful, being watchful is being a real follower of Jesus Christ!

Mark 13:35

"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming-- in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- Mark 13:36 "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Luke 12:35

"Let your waist be girded (keep your shorts on) and your lamps burning (heart hot); "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Truly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. "And if the master should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so watching, blessed are those servants.

## Why would you resist these things ?

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.