

Sermon Handout

Pleasing God

I Thessalonians 4:1-12

- I.** “Walking” and “pleasing” God
- a. Walking with God (*cf.* Eph 4:1)
 - i. Abraham called to walk with God Gen 17:1
 - ii. Israel called to walk in God’s ways Is 2:1-3, 5; 30:19-22
cf. Ps 26:2-6
 - iii. The negative side: Acts 14:16; Ps 81:10-13
 - iv. A motif used by John: Jn 8:12; 12:35-36; IJn 2:6; IIJn 6
 - b. Called to please God
The sense of performing service to God *cf.* 2:4; IICor 4:5
 - c. Paul’s focus is on the broad pattern of the Christian life
He preached this from the beginning vv. 1-2 (*see* ICor 15:3)
The message of obedience is not an “add-on” to the gospel.
- II.** God’s will for us is that we be a holy people (*see* IPet 2:9)
God intends that we live a consecrated lifestyle.
- a. Abstain from all sexual impurity vv. 3b-8
 - i. “Abstain” and “know how to possess” v. 3b
 - ii. Negative & positive sides of the matter vv. 4-5
 - iii. Do not “defraud” others v. 6
God’s retribution will fall on violators
 - iv. God has called us to purity in sexual matters v. 7
 - v. In sexual impurity, we sin against God the Holy Spirit v. 8
 - b. Exercise brotherly love vv. 9-10
 - i. Service to one another (love is action, not mere emotion)
 - ii. Concern for the welfare of others (locally and elsewhere)
 - iii. We are urged to emphasize this practice “more & more”
 - c. Attend to our own vocations faithfully and well vv. 11-12
 - i. Quietly pursue your work to please God (*see* ICor 10:31)
 - ii. Meet the needs of your own family & the poor
 - iii. Be honest in all your dealings with others
- These practices will provide sufficiently for your own, and will enable you to help others also (*see* Jas 1:27).