

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT-7

“Holy Living in an X-Rated World”

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Introduction _____

I. FIRST, NOTICE PAUL’S SIMPLE EXHORTATION FOR THEM TO ABOUND IN HOLINESS (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2).

- A. First, the exhortation in holiness has to do with their actions (4:1b). “. . . **how you ought to walk and please God . . .**”
- B. Secondly, the exhortation in holiness has to do with their authority (4:2).

II. SECONDLY, CONSIDER PAUL’S SPECIFIC EXHORTATION IS FOR THEM TO ABOUND IN ABSTINENCE (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

To better understand these verses, note the following clear instructions:

- A. First, Paul specifically exhorted them to abstain from sexual immorality (4:3b) “. . . **that you abstain from fornication.**”
- B. Secondly, he specifically exhorted them to administer their own body (4:4).

Note these observations:

- 1. First, no one ever lived in a generation where holiness came easy
- 2. Secondly, no one ever lived a life of holiness by accident
- 3. Thirdly, he specifically exhorted them not to defraud a brother (4:6).

The choice is one that only YOU can make! There are only two options to choose from:

- To live horizontally in the weakness of the FLESH!
- To live vertically in the power of the HOLY SPIRIT!

III. THIRDLY, CONSIDER PAUL’S SPECIAL EXHORTATION FOR THEM TO ABOUND IN _____ (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).

Note some challenging passages in the Bible that relate to this situation:

- A. First, notice how Jesus makes a _____ statement in His intercessory prayer (John 17:15-18).
- B. Secondly, consider how Paul presents a _____ in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 5:1-6).

IV. FOURTHLY, NOTICE PAUL’S SERIOUS EXHORTATION FOR THEM TO ABOUND IN _____ (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

- A. First, notice how he encourages them in their use of their _____ (4:11a).
- B. Secondly, note how he encourages them in the area of their _____ (4:11b).
- C. Thirdly, consider how he encourages them in their _____ (4:11c).
- D. Fourthly, see how he encourages them in their _____ (4:12).