

Walking the Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

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"If we displease God, does it matter whom we please? If we please Him does it matter whom we displease?" –Leonard Ravenhill

Big Idea:

The Thessalonians were to grow in conduct that pleased God

Examining the Text: The Four Elements of the Appeal Formula

- 1.) Two Verbs - Exhort and Urge
- 2.) A Reference to the Recipients - The Brethren
- 3.) The Prepositional Phrase Representing the Source of the Authority - In the Lord Jesus

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:2

*"**18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." –Matthew 28:18-20*

"...we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name" –Romans 1:5

- 4.) The Content of the Appeal - Abound More and More to Walk and Please God

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

"those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit..."
–Romans 8:8-9

"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."
–2 Corinthians 5:9

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called;" –Ephesians 4:1

"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ" –Philippians 1:27

"you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;" –Colossians 1:9-10

Applying the Text: Consider Three Crucial and Critical Issues

1.) We struggle with the idea of pleasing God with our walk

- An OT Analogy - Were the Sacrifices of Israel Pleasing to God?

"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart– These, O God, You will not despise Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar." –Psalm 51:16-19

"Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the Lord of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands." –Malachi 1:10

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." –Colossians 3:17

2.) Paul is not Exhorting the Thessalonians to do something they can't.

3.) Most of our sinful behavior is not born out of ignorance, but apathy.

"He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." –1 Thessalonians 5:24