

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

### *“Practical Purity” Part-1*

**1 Thessalonians 4:4-5**

*April 20 – April 26, 2008*

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week we continue in our study of **1 Thessalonians 4** as we look at **verses 4-5**. The Apostle Paul is continuing his plea for purity to the people of God and in this text lays out some “*Practical Instructions for Purity*” on how this goal is to be realized in the life of believers. We understand it is only accomplished through the power of The Holy Spirit through the means of His Word and obedience to it. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –As **verse 4** begins we find The Apostle explaining what living sexually pure is to look like. We remember that he told us in **verse 3** that the “*will of God*” is to “*abstain*” from sexual immorality. Now we will begin to see how we live this command to “*abstain*” in our lives as we obey these commands of Holy Scripture. He begins by telling us that “*...each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor...*” Some scholars see this term “*vessel*” to be a reference to a man's wife (we will speak to that this Lord's Day), but the more likely meaning would be to understand him as speaking to one's own body. How we “*abstain*” from sexual sin is linked to the matter of how we control our body in reference to sexual immorality. Scripture reminds us of the weak and sinful “*vessel*” that we are but also reminds us that in this “*vessel*” we as believers have the indwelling Holy Spirit which enables us to understand and obey His Word. Read **1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 9:27, 2 Corinthians 4:7**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, may I always be aware of the weakness and inability to please You and live pure without Your power. Help me Holy Spirit to obey Your Word and live a life of purity, exercising control of my body.*

**TUESDAY** –Holy Scripture informs us that we should “*know*” how to control our body. This means we are to understand and have the knowledge to obey this command. We get this understanding from Scripture itself. This also reminds us that the “*body*” includes our minds as well as our outward physical flesh. Scripture has

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Lord's Day						
Mon						
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*Matthew 6:9-13*

told us we are to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds”. The battle for purity begins with the mind of the believer being saturated with God’s Word. The Proverbs tell us that “as a man thinks in his heart, so is he” and warns us to “guard your hearts for out of it flow the issues of life”. This is a fundamental issue in understanding our propensity to evil and knowing how and where the strength to resist sin comes from. It is not from our own strength but God works His strength through us as we are filled and obedient to Him and His Word. Read **Romans 12:1-2, Psalms 119:1-11, Proverbs 4:23, 23:7**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to walk in obedience to Your Word and to love, Your commandments. Transform my mind Holy Spirit by Your Word for the Glory of Jesus who gave us the perfect example.*

**WEDNESDAY** –Paul tells us in **verse 4** that we are to keep our body “...in sanctification and honor”. John Calvin comments, “for the man that prostitutes his body to fornication, covers it with infamy and disgrace”. We are to keep ourselves separated from sin to God which results in honor that is without shame. Again, as we have mentioned earlier, if we remember that we are the temple of God as believers and keep our minds filled with Holy Scripture we will have the understanding which informs us to pursue these Godly goals of purity. We read in **verse 5** the antithesis of this attitude is found in the “Gentiles” (unbelievers) who “do not know God”. The man who has not been transformed by the Divine work of salvation is completely enslaved to his lusts and powerless to live a life that denies self and pleases God. As believers we are told not to live with the uncontrolled passions and thinking that is so prevalent in the lives of those who do not know God. Read **Proverbs 6:32-33, Galatians 5:24-25**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: O Father, help me to see and feel the shame and disgrace that comes with sexual sin, and run to You for deliverance. Jesus I thank You that You cleanse us from all sin who have come to You and Your cross for forgiveness.*

**THURSDAY** –The point Paul makes in **verse 5** could be summarized by saying that a believer should not act like an unbeliever. As we noted last week, our society or better said our world is drowning in a sea of sexual filth and perversion. The Scripture points out crystal clear that the uncontrolled desire for sexual gratification at any cost is the typical way of life for those who are unregenerate. The words “passion of lust” here in our text are strong words which by definition speak to a feeling, passion, desire, craving, and longing for something that is forbidden. This is describing this forceful and strong lusting for sexual sin that is so easily seen in mankind. Those without Christ are marked by a craving for these things while those of us who are saved although tempted to please our sinful flesh

have a inward desire to please God and therefore loath our sin and fight a fierce battle with our minds and bodies to “bring them into subjection”. Read **Romans 1:24-27, Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, 9:27**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to live with the self control that You have commanded and with the strength You have provided by Your Word and Holy Spirit.*

**FRIDAY** –In order to control our bodies as believers we must rely on The Holy spirit and His Divine power. We have seen that we are not to act like the unbelieving world that is controlled by lustful passions but it takes more than your own “will power” to do this. It is important that we purpose to act in obedience but the ultimate source of our victory over sin and temptation comes from God Himself. It was Jesus who taught us to pray to The Father that we would not be lead into temptation and that we would be delivered from evil and the evil one. The key to this victory is found in being “filled with Spirit” which is according to Scripture having “the Word of God dwell in you richly”. When our lives and minds are saturated by Holy Scripture The Holy Spirit uses the Divine source of food and power, “the incorruptible seed” to guide us and help us apply it in Godly living. Read **Ephesians 5:17-18, Colossians 3:16-17**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God today to help you to be being filled with The Spirit through consistent feeding on His Holy Word.*

**SATURDAY** –Finally this week, we need to understand that in order to live pure lives we must pursue to be separation from sin as well as yield our selves as instruments of righteousness. This can be practically seen in our avoidance of things that we know would lead us to unnecessary temptation. Many people ask the question of “how far” they can go into certain behaviors without actually sinning. This is the complete wrong question which reveals our depravity and sinful desires to find pleasure for the flesh in sinful behavior. We should instead, by God’s grace desire to be as far away from sin and temptation as possible by avoiding those things that we know will expose us to temptation. With a constant remembrance that we as believers are the “Temple of The Holy Spirit” we should strive to glorify Jesus Christ with our body and spirit which are God’s. Read **1 Corinthians 6:15-20**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to live a pure life for Your glory. Give me the strength to resist the temptations of sexual sin and to rely on Your Divine power and Spirit to put to death the deeds of the flesh.*