

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Practical Purity” Part-2

1 Thessalonians 4:6-8

May 11 – May 17, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we return to our study in **1 Thessalonians** as we look at *Part 2* of “*Practical Purity*”. In the beginning portion of this chapter of **1 Thessalonians** the Apostle Paul is addressing the matter of pure living as it applies to sexual conduct and sin. We have seen it is “*the will of God*” for us to “*abstain from sexual immorality*” so why is it we find even among “professing” Christians an almost fervent desire to disregard this clear instruction from God and push the envelope of enticements and pleasures regarding sexual behavior? We will answer this tomorrow and spend this week looking into more practical instruction on living pure before God. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**.

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 –In answer to the question of yesterday we need look no further than **verse 5** for the answer. So many even “professing” believers worship at the altar of sexual sin defined as “*passion of lust*” for the simple reason that they “*...like the Gentiles...do not know God*”. The answer is that many who profess to be born again are NOT; never having experienced the new birth and never having been freed from the enslavement of sin that darkens and binds, and blinds the hearts of the unregenerate. This is not to say that as believers we never sin in this manner; but mark this, if we as true Christians do sin in this manner it is because we have rejected the convicting work of The Spirit of God and we will be filled with guilt, shame, and disgust over our behavior which we know to be blatant disobedience to our King. The great news for both the saved and lost is found in the gospel; that if we feel the burden of our sin and turn from it and cling to Christ in faith for deliverance’ He will save us and equip us to live lives pleasing to Him. Read **Ephesians 4:17-24**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help us to “learn Christ” and put on the “new man”.*

TUESDAY –In **verse 6** we are given yet another reason beside the previously stated ones concerning why we are to live sexually pure lives. Not only is this a command from God which reveals His will for us, brings honor without shame, and

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

distinguishes us from the unbelieving world; but how we live also has an affect on others. This verse tells us that “*no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter.*” John MacArthur summarizes this statement well when he says, “Whenever believers seek to satisfy their physical desires and gain sexual pleasure at the expense of another believer, they have violated this command.” We can violate this command without physical contact as well. The thoughts and mental sin which involves other believers also transgresses this command. Bear in mind we are not to sin this way with ANY person believer or unbeliever; but the serious nature of the warning is increased within the family of God. Jesus was clear on causing a believer to stumble. Read **Matthew 18:6-7, Romans 14:13.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me be mindful of how I think and act toward others, especially my brothers and sisters in Christ. Help me to live pure in thought and deed and not sin against my brother in this way.*

WEDNESDAY –When we sin in this matter of sexual purity the Scripture tells us it is a sin against ourselves (**1 Corinthians 6:18**), others (**verse 6**), and foremost against God (**Psalms 51:4**) since it is His law that we have broken. **Verse 6** also reveals the contempt which is shown by those who would violate this command toward both his “*brother*” and also God Himself. The Apostle says that “*The Lord is the avenger...*” It is ultimately God who “*avenges*” (Greek *ekdikos*: exacting penalty from one, an avenger, a punisher). The havoc that is caused by sexual sin, which so often affects so many others, will be dealt with and punished by the Lord Himself. Paul told these people in our text that he had, “*forewarned*”, and “*testified*” of this to them. We need to ask God to help us think of these consequences when we are tempted to sin sexually. Read of some of the warnings of Scripture in **Romans 12:17-21, Hebrews 13:4.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: *O Father, help me understand and know that You will avenge for those defrauded by sexual sin. Thank You also Jesus that You took the eternal penalty for our sin as believers on yourself at the cross!*

THURSDAY –We must not lose sight of the thoughts from our closing prayer yesterday; namely, that in the gospel, at the cross, God laid upon Jesus the eternal punishment for our sins as believers. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift! This however does not mean that there will not be earthly consequences for our sin. Furthermore, this does not mean that there will not be eternal consequences for our sin as well, such as the loss of rewards. Not only can sexual sin have consequences now (broken marriages, disease, death) but it will certainly result to some degree in the loss of eternal reward. We must keep this in mind amidst temptation. Read **1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 John 8.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Oh Father, give me strength day by day to live with eternity in view. Lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil.*

FRIDAY –**Verse 7** hits at the heart of God’s purpose for us as His children. The text says, “*For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*” This “*call*” is in reference to the effectual call of salvation, when God opened the heart and mind of the believer and gave him the faith to believe and the gift of repentance to turn to Christ for salvation. This matter of living sexually pure accords with the general plan of God for us as His children; which is to be not only declared justified in His sight but then also to be sanctified and set apart to Him in Holy living. A life of impurity is totally inconsistent with the “*high call*” of a believer. God’s purpose in the salvation of men was to produce a holy people that would walk worthy of that Divine call into His kingdom and glory. Sexual sin and defilement run completely contrary to the ultimate purpose and goal for believers. Read **Ephesians 2:8-10, 4:1, 5:26-27, 1 Peter 2:9-12.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me live holy and honor You in my behavior. I understand that it is Christ’s righteousness and not my own which makes me acceptable in Your sight; but help me to live a life worthy of Your gracious calling.*

SATURDAY –We end in **verse 8** by Paul wrapping up on all he has said concerning this topic. He says, in light of all I have just said concerning sexual sin, our command to abstain from it, its judgment and consequences, and our call to holy living; anyone who rejects this does not reject me or another man, “*but God...*” The word for reject may also be defined “disregard, set aside, refuse, slight”. Tragically, there are many who call themselves Christians who will “disregard” these commands. They will give verbal assent to them (maybe even an “amen”), but they will “disregard” them in the matter of practical living, whether or not they modify their behavior. This is why Paul brings in the point of The Holy Spirit to the conservation. A true believer has been given the Holy Spirit which enables Him to live up to God’s standards of sexual morality (and all other areas as well). God gives His children The Holy Spirit to help us live holy and pure lives. Sexual sin violates the work of The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as it spurns His will and disregards His purposes, and horrifically, those who engage in it, reject the warning that God will judge such behavior. Read **Romans 13:13-14.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Holy Spirit, forgive me for grieving you so often. Help me live a life of obedience to You and Your Word. Thank You God, for forgiveness in Christ.*