

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Sexual Sanctification -The Will of God”

1 Thessalonians 4:3

April 13 – April 19, 2008

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL 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	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we continue in our study of **1 Thessalonians 4** as we look at verse **3**. So much can be said in reference to this topic of sexual purity and we will take this week as just an introduction to the topic. Lord willing we will see the Apostle’s specific instructions that follow in the text in next weeks study. We will start here in our text and then see some other passages that refer to this general overall theme throughout Scripture. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:3**.

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 –Verse **3** begins by saying, “*For this is the will of God...*” Much is said today about “finding” God’s will. Holy Scripture is clear as to the revealed will of God. A person should focus on obedience to the revealed will of God as contained in Scripture first and foremost and they will then find out God guides and leads them to walk in His ways and to live a life that is pleasing to Him. There is no vague or obscure meaning in what follows in the text which is “*the will of God*”. It is namely, “*...that you should abstain from sexual immorality*”. The general principle is defined for us in that we are to be set apart to holiness toward God in the matter of sexual behavior. We are told to “*abstain*” (to hold one’s self off, refrain, abstain) from sexual immorality (porneia). We will expound further on this in the coming days. Read **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help us to see that we are called as believers to live a life of holiness concerning sexual behavior. Help us to understand You have sanctified us to live a pure and holy life and give us grace to obey in this area.*

TUESDAY –The Word used in our text for “*immorality*” is the word “*porneia*” which is a broad term which is often translated “*fornication*”. It speaks to sexual behaviors of many kinds. We see that Scripture is clear that God has made us as sexual creatures and has given us sex to procreate and live out His command to “*be fruitful and multiply*”. Like everything that God has given to His creatures, sex is something that Satan has used and perverted to be a source of sin and rebellion

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towards God and His grace. It is God who created us and made us to be sexual. God has given us sex to be enjoyed and used in obedience to His commands within the framework of marriage and to ultimately glorify Him. I know that may sound strange to many people, but God has made us to glorify Himself even in this matter of sex. Read **Genesis 1:27-28, Hebrews 13:4**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Dear God, thank You for all of Your graces to us including sexual union within the marriage bed. Help us to glorify You in our sexual behavior within the commanded context of marriage.

WEDNESDAY –Paul wrote that we are to “abstain” from sexual immorality. This command implies to us that there is temptation that would lead us away from abstaining and therefore lead us into sin which would dishonor God. We must use the word of God and be filled with His Spirit if we are to have victory in this matter of sexual purity. The flood of perversion is massive and it is constantly assaulting us to enjoy our “freedom” and seek satisfaction for ourselves no matter what the cost. It takes a determined effort and the strength given to us from God's Word and Spirit to resist temptation and live pure. Read the story of Joseph in **Genesis 39:7-12** and see how he saw sexual sin for what it is, “...sin against God”. He gives us a wonderful example of how to see sexual sin and temptation in light of God and His Word.

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

Suggestion for prayer: O Father, help me to see sexual sin for what it is, a sin against You. Give me strength to obey You through Your Word and by the power of The Holy Spirit.

THURSDAY –Sexual temptation is nothing new to human beings. The Old Testament is replete with discussion concerning abstaining from sexual sin. We could list many examples from Scripture which pertain to this. Another man of God who gives us a proper example is the man Job. In the midst of great trial he again gives us the proper view of sexual sin being a sin against God Himself. Job was so God saturated in his thinking you will notice his wonderful commitment to integrity and his decision and determination to honor God in his thoughts and actions. He exclaims his integrity and that he had not sinned against God in this area of sexual behavior. Notice that Job understood God's view of sin and actually “covenanted” with his eyes to live a pure life pleasing to God. Read **Job 31:1-6**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to be so aware and in live in reverential awe of You that I will mortify the flesh with its desires to live unholy and that my life will be pure before You and bring You honor and glory.

FRIDAY –In the book of Proverbs Solomon gives his son some sound advice and commands concerning sexual behavior. He explains to his son that God has provided means for sexual fulfillment and that is with his wife. As you read this passage you will notice that God's Word is not prudish and afraid to speak of the wonderful intimacies that have been provided for us in the act of sexual union within marriage. God has designed the sexes so that a man and woman brought together as one in Him can find all the fulfillment they need with each other. In a world full of sexual perversion, sin, and temptation, we need to like Solomon instruct our young children that they will find true lasting sexual fulfillment in God's Divine plan within marriage but also warn them of the consequences of being enslaved and falling prey to sexual sin. Read **Proverbs 5**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God today to cleanse your heart and mind from all the sexual sinfulness that surrounds us in our culture. Thank Him for the blessing of true intimacy found within His blessed and ordained covenant of marriage.

SATURDAY –Finally this week, I would like to close our study with some words of hope and encouragement. We all at some point have fallen into sexual sin even if it has been contained to our thinking and lusts of the heart. The blessed news is that there is forgiveness in Christ for all our sin. Scripture informs us that as we feel the burden of our sin and come in repentant faith to Jesus believing He has paid the penalty for us on the cross, we may be forgiven. Even as believers who find ourselves falling to temptation at times, we must run to Christ and “confess” agree with God concerning our sin and we will find Him faithful to forgive (**1 John 1:9**). There is also the promise of deliverance in Scripture for the person who will by God's grace turn to Him for strength and obey His Word. One of my favorite passages concerning this is found in **Ecclesiastes 8:25-26** where we read that escape from sexual sin is possible to the one “who pleases God” (Literally- “He who is good before God”). Ask God to help you be serious in living a life that pleases him and turn to His revealed Word for strength and direction for sexual sanctification.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help us to desire You and more than any temporary satisfaction that would come from sinful behavior. Thank You that You alone are powerful enough to deliver me from the trap of sexual sin.