

PAUL'S FIRST  
LETTER TO THE  
THESSALONIANS

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*4 – A Plea for Holiness and The Comfort of  
Christ's Coming (4:1-18)*

# A PLEA FOR HOLINESS (4:1-12)

- [4:1-2] Exhortations // their prayer in 3:11-13
- "That you excel still more"
- How to walk and please God - keep the commandments (1 Jn. 5:1-5; 2 Jn. 4-6) (2 Peter 1:5-11)

# A PLEA FOR HOLINESS (4:1-12)

- [4:3-6] The will of God – your sanctification
  - *Sanctified when we put away sin and were baptized (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:1-11)*
  - *Continues as we abstain from sin (Heb. 2:11; 10:14)*
  - *Completed at Christ's return (5:23-24)*

# A PLEA FOR HOLINESS (4:1-12)

- [4:3-6] The will of God – your sanctification
- Avoid sexual immorality (c.f. 1 Cor. 6:15-20)
  - *Possess your own vessel in sanctification and honor (2 Tim. 2:20-22)*
  - *Not in lust as the Gentiles (Eph. 4:17-24)*

# A PLEA FOR HOLINESS (4:1-12)

- [4:7] A life of sanctification is a life of holiness  
- *Be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:13-16)*
- [4:8] Rejecting holiness and sanctification by abstaining from sin = rejecting God

# A PLEA FOR HOLINESS (4:1-12)

- [4:9-10] Requires continual growth (3:12; 4:1)
- [4:11a] Aspire to lead a quiet life (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
- [4:11b] Mind own business, work with your hands (2 Thess. 3:10-12; 1 Pt. 4:15)
- [4:12] Walk properly toward outsiders (1 Pt. 2:11-12)

# COMFORT OF CHRIST'S COMING (4:13-18)

- A theme of the letter
  - **1:10** " ...and to wait for His Son from heaven..."
  - **2:19** "...you in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?"
  - **3:13** "...so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints."
  - **5:1-11, 23** "...preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

## COMFORT OF CHRIST'S COMING (4:13-18)

- [4:13] Knowledge of resurrection gives hope
  - *Some sorrow without hope over the dead*
  - *We have hope in Christ (Eph. 2:11-13)*
  - *If we believe the resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-3, 12-23; 2 Cor. 4:7-14)*

## COMFORT OF CHRIST'S COMING (4:13-18)

- [4:13] Knowledge of resurrection gives hope
- [4:14] Dead in Christ will precede those who are alive
  - *Perhaps the concern was those who were dead would "miss out" on Christ's return?*

# COMFORT OF CHRIST'S COMING (4:13-18)

- [4:16-17] What will Christ's return look like
  - *The Lord Himself will descend from heaven (Acts 1:9-11)*
  - *With a shout, the voice of an archangel (2 Thess. 1:7-10)*
  - *With the trumpet of God (the last trumpet)*
  - *The dead in Christ will rise first (Jesus will bring the souls of the dead in Christ- v. 14)*

# COMFORT OF CHRIST'S COMING (4:13-18)

- [4:16-17] What will Christ's return look like
  - *Those alive will be caught up with them in the clouds*
    - Bodies will be raised up, and changed in a moment (1 Cor. 15:50-54)
    - *And we will always be with the Lord (1 Pt. 1:3-5)*
    - This is the end (2 Pt. 3:10-13)
- Comforting words (4:18,13;5:9-11)

