

Studies in First Thessalonians

NT Survey Lesson 81—1 Thessalonians 4

Introduction: In this chapter Paul urges the Thessalonians to sexual purity, love of their brethren, and an orderly lifestyle. He explains to them the Christian's hope for the righteous dead, so that they may "sorrow not as the rest who have no hope."

Lesson aim: To emphasize the hope of Christian when loved ones are lost.

Paul's urges the Thessalonians to sexual purity--1 Thes. 4:1-8

1. What does Paul exhort the Thessalonians to do in v.1?
2. From whom had the Thessalonians receive commandments concerning the lifestyle the Lord expected them to live?
3. What did Paul say God's will for the Christian is? This means that the Christian must abstain from what in particular?
4. How did Paul explain the difference between the conduct of the Christian and the conduct of the Gentile? (v.4-5)
5. Who did Paul say would avenge the brother who was defrauded by another brother in sexual immorality?
6. To reject the teaching of the apostles on this matter was/is to reject whom?

The need to love others and live an orderly life—1Thes. 4:9-12

1. Who taught the Thessalonians how to love one another? To what extent were they showing love? What did Paul want them to do in this area?
2. What else did Paul urge the Thessalonians to do? (v.11) Why?

The Christian's hope for the righteous dead--1 Thes. 4:13-18

1. Why did Paul want the Thessalonians not to be uninformed about those who were "asleep"? Why do you suppose Paul used this term (asleep)?

2. What did Paul reveal Christ would do when he returned? (v.14)
3. List in sequence the things Paul said would transpire at the coming of the Lord.
4. What were the Thessalonians to do with this revelation? (v.18)
5. Thought questions: What do many churches teach about the "rapture"? Does this doctrine fit the Biblical evidence? Why or why not?