

**Living to Please God**  
**Lesson #7**  
**1 Thessalonians 3:6-4:12**

In the last section of this letter, Paul said he could stand it no longer, not knowing how the Thessalonians were doing. So while he and Silas waited in Athens, Timothy was sent to strengthen and encourage their faith and to bring back the news of their welfare.

**The Report - 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

1. Timothy made the trip from Athens to Thessalonica and back bringing the news Paul so longed for. Was the report what Paul had hoped and prayed for? (1 Thessalonians 3:6)
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:7
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:8
2. What did Paul say this news did for him?
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:7
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:8
3. Overflowing with thankfulness and joy, what question did Paul ask? (1 Thessalonians 3:9)

**Reflect:** Paul was speaking as a spiritual parent, but there is another side which is that of the spiritual child. Because of Paul and Silas' solid teaching, these spiritual children (new believers) were able to withstand trials and persecution. Is there a time you can relate either to Paul, when you were worried for a spiritual child or to the Thessalonians when you were able to stand firm in difficult times because of strong faith? Write your thoughts down and if you are comfortable, share this with your group.

4. Paul used the news to pray more specifically. What did he ask the Lord?  
(1 Thessalonians 3:10)
5. Why did Paul petition the Lord night and day for this? (1 Thessalonians 3:11)
6. As he thought about his prayers, Paul broke out in yet another prayer, this time a prayer of blessing. What blessings did he ask the Lord to pour out on the Thessalonians?
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:12
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:13

#### **Living to Please God - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

The good report Timothy brought back resulted in prayer, praise and this letter. Paul's heart was overflowing with joy because of the news that his spiritual children were "*standing firm in the Lord.*" (1 Thessalonians 3:8) Before he concluded this letter, Paul took the time to do some additional teaching on living to please God. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

7. Paul said they were already doing this, so why did he say he was reminding them again?  
(1 Thessalonians 4:2)
8. Paul clearly stated, "*It is God's will that you should be sanctified.*" (1 Thessalonians 4:3a) Using a dictionary, define the word "sanctified."
9. Paul began teaching in areas where there are common struggles in the life of the believer. What was first on Paul's list? (1 Thessalonians 4:3b)
10. If one is to live a life pleasing to the Lord, what is the right way according to verses 4 and 5?

11. What did Paul say not to do? (1 Thessalonians 4:6)
12. What clear and unwavering reason was given for this? (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
13. Summarize Paul's conclusion on his teaching on sexual immorality. (1 Thessalonians 4:8)
14. In verses 9 and 10, Paul turned to the important topic of love, "*brotherly love*." What did he say to the Thessalonians about this topic in relationship to godly living?
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:9
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:10a
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:10b
15. As Paul closes this section on godly living, what did he say the Thessalonians should make their ambition? (1 Thessalonians 4:11)
16. Why is that important to a godly life? (1 Thessalonians 4:12)

**Reflect:** Paul had commended the Thessalonians saying that they had become "*a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia*." (1 Thessalonians 1:7) Look back over the list given in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-11. As a godly role model, which area do you think is most compromised in the Christian world today?

Paul was firm and direct saying that each of these areas of one's life must be sanctified if, as believers, they (and we) are going to live in a way pleasing to God.