

## LESSON 4 – ABOUND MORE AND MORE

### *I Thessalonians 4:1-18*

#### Summary

This fourth chapter begins the second half of the book, which explains more about the resurrection and the Lord's return, and which provides gentle encouragement to continue growing in keeping God's commands. The first admonition is for sexual purity and holiness. The second command is to work diligently and continue abounding in love toward each other, saints beyond Thessalonica, and even outsiders. The third topic explains what will happen to the dead in Christ. They will rise and ascend first at the Lord's visible return, and then the living will ascend to be all together with Jesus forever. This hope – eternal life with Jesus beyond death – would have brought great comfort and peace to the Christians of the first century, as it continues to comfort saints even today.

#### Bible Reading With Questions

##### *Abstain From Sexual Immorality – I Thessalonians 4:1-8*

1. Was Paul critical of the Thessalonians' behavior in verses 1-2? What can we learn about "people skills" from his opening admonition?
2. What is the first basic command that Paul brings to their remembrance? How would they "*abound more and more*" in keeping this command?
3. How does one "*possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor*"? Does this refer to ourselves, our spouses, or someone else?
4. What virtue should characterize the Christian's purpose, manner of life, or mission, as identified by Paul here (verse 7)?
5. Was Paul's instruction on these topics born out of his own opinion, culture, or times? Explain.

##### *Diligent Work and Generous Love – I Thessalonians 4:9-12*

6. How were the Thessalonians "*taught by God*"? Can we receive the same today? If so, how?
7. How might the Thessalonians have demonstrated love "*toward all the brethren who are in Macedonia*"?
8. What would happen if the Thessalonians failed to keep the commands of verse 11?

***Resurrection of the Dead in Christ – I Thessalonians 4:13-18***

9. Previous to Paul's writing, what hope did the Thessalonians have for their brethren, who had died in Christ?
  
10. Whose resurrection is bound to Jesus' own resurrection?
  
11. Will the Lord's return be silent or go unnoticed? How does this fact impact the doctrine of Premillennialism?
  
12. To where will the Lord return and gather His saints? Impact on Premillennialism?
  
13. How can "*these words*" comfort?
  
14. Why would they need to "*comfort one another*", if they all received the same words? Lessons?