

“How To Walk and Please God” 3/14/2010

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1 Thessalonians- “Living a Life of Focus in Expectation of Jesus’ Return”

“Walk”- used figuratively over 200 times of our relationship with God; We should walk: not as unbelievers, Eph 4:17; in love, 5:2; carefully in wisdom, 5:15; as children of light, 5:8; in the Spirit, Gal 5:16; by faith, not by sight, 2 Cor 5:7.

Intentionality, purpose, direction... where and HOW! ILL- Alice-Wonderland

POINT 1- A walk that pleases God will include PURITY

- A. Our purity before the Lord in sanctification is GOD’S WILL
(vv. 1-4; 2 Pet 3:9; Eph 5:18; 1 Pet 2:13-15; 3:17; 4:19; 1 Thess 5:18)

“...doing the will of God from the heart...” (Eph 6:6)

- B. Our purity before the Lord is not as the standards of the WORLD
(v. 5; Eph 4:17; 1 Peter 4:3; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15; Eph 2:2; 1 John 4:5)

DATING? Flee imm- 1 Cor 6:18; flee lusts- 2 Tim 2:22; Songs 2:7; 3:5; 8:4

- C. Our purity before the Lord recognizes God’s discipline and AUTHORITY
(vv. 6-8; Hebrews 13:4; God is avenger; Gal 5:16- walk in the Spirit)

Going *God wants you to know that He is serious about us being pure!*
Deeper

POINT 2- A walk that pleases God will include PROGRESS

- A. Our progress is rooted in love and should continue to INCREASE
(vv. 1; 9-10; John 13:34-35; Hebrews 5:11-14; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:2)

Going *God wants you to continue growing in your knowledge and faith in Jesus!*
Deeper

POINT 3- A walk that pleases God will include PROPRIETY

- A. Our propriety should be characterized by ambition for lives of VIRTUE
(v. 11; love; quiet life, mind own business, work hard – 2 Thess 3:10-13)

- B. Our propriety should be recognized by those on the OUTSIDE
(vv. 12; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; Col 4:5; 1 Tim 3:7)

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.” (Col 4:5)

Going *God wants you to continue growing in a life that is proper!*
Deeper

In Alice in Wonderland, when Alice comes to a junction in the road that leads in different directions, she asks the Cheshire Cat, "Cheshire-Puss...would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to go to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where," replied Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go."