

CHAPTER 31.5  
*Faith Life*

“LIVING FOR GOD’S PLEASURE”  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12  
October 15, 2017

Living to please God means growing in holiness (sanctification).  
(1-3)

I. Holiness in intimacy. Sexual purity. (3-8)

A. The practice of sexual holiness. (3-6)

1) abstain

2) control your body

3) don’t transgress your brother

4) Remember who judges and avenges:  
the Lord Jesus. (6c)

B. Called for, or to, holiness. (7)

C. Sexual sin is a direct affront to God (8)

D. God gives us His Spirit

II. Love for the family. Brotherly love.

A. Philadelphia

B. Taught by God to love.

C. Pattern (10-11)

1. Serve all. ‘all the brothers’

2. Beyond your immediate church.

3. Hard working quiet lives that do not intrude or  
meddle in other’s affairs, but love and support others.

More and More – the relentless drive to please God

**How does this apply to me?**

## **NEXT WEEK**

“LIVING IN HOPE”  
1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:11

### **Passage Overview:**

The believers in Thessalonica were excited about the return of Christ. Almost certainly none of them had been in Israel when Jesus was there. The message of Christ’s coming was new and exhilarating. They were anticipating His return to rescue the saints, judge the wicked, and to establish His eschatological kingdom.

But there were some glaring holes in their understanding. Expecting Christ to return very quickly, they were anxious about those believers among them who had already died. What would happen to them? Additionally, they were perplexed about how to live in the present, when their hope was in the future. Was it really worth it to work today if earthly work would soon pass away? Was it not better to wait for His coming and to focus on the eternal than to engage in temporal work and objectives?

Paul instructs them first about those who have died in Christ. They will not miss out on the King or His kingdom. In fact, they will precede those who remain alive. Secondly, he encourages them to stay alert as they anticipate the return of Christ. His return should be catalyst for them, helping them to use time and energy wisely as they await his coming.

Paul’s wanted to encourage them. As they faced prolonged persecution, this hope would serve to inspire them to live with full awareness of the times. They have the opportunity to serve the King while they wait for the King, making the most of every moment and opportunity.

Are you anticipating His return, or are you living just for the moment? Does the hope of Jesus’ return encourage and motivate you to live distinctly for Him today?

**Reading for Next Week:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11