



I THESSALONIANS

a future for now

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 – The Power Of A Quiet Life

April 21, 2024

...that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

2 Thessalonians 3:10–11 (ESV)

...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV)

...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)

The Thessalonians were carried away as they anticipated Jesus' return.

...not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 2 Thessalonians 2:2 (ESV)

Historical examples of those who were carried away as they anticipated Jesus' return

- The bishop of Pontus in the third century
- Duane the wrestler
- Harold Camping

How should we live anticipating Jesus' return?

1. Love one another more.

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, 1 Thessalonians 4:9–10 (ESV)

Now concerning brotherly love..., 1 Thessalonians 4:9a (ESV)

- *Philadelphos* (brotherly love) always shows itself in acts of compassion, not just words.
- Brotherly love should reframe the way we think about church and the depth of relationships we pursue in church.

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 1 Thessalonians 4:9 (ESV)

...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5 (ESV)

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
1 John 3:14 (ESV)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
1 John 4:7 (ESV)

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8 (ESV)

...for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, 1 Thessalonians 4:10 (ESV)

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

2. Lead a quiet life.

...and to aspire to live quietly,... 1 Thessalonians 4:11a (ESV)

What does it mean to live a quiet life on social media?

- A. If I can't say something positive or disagree respectfully, it is best not to post.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

- B. If I am not qualified to speak about a subject, don't add my ignorance to the Internet.

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

- C. I have a right to my opinion, but it doesn't have to be public.

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, Matthew 12:36 (ESV)

3. Mind your own business.

...and to mind your own affairs,... 1 Thessalonians 4:11b (ESV)

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 (ESV)

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 1 Peter 4:15 (ESV)

4. Get a job.

...and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 1 Thessalonians 4:11c (ESV)

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 2 Thessalonians 3:11–12 (ESV)

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.
2 Thessalonians 3:10 (ESV)

Why won't loud-mouthed social protesters turn people to Jesus?

A. Our life should make Jesus attractive to outsiders.

...so that you may walk properly before outsiders...
1 Thessalonians 4:12a (ESV)

B. Our life should make Jesus attractive to insiders.

...and be dependent on no one. 1 Thessalonians 4:12b (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Pastor Kurt shared the story of Harold Camping and how his predictions about the end of the world pushed people away from Jesus instead of drawing them toward Him. In what ways have you seen other Christians push people away from Jesus?
2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10.** Paul, as society grew worse in Thessalonica, the Thessalonians felt the return of Christ might be near. Instead of getting into an end-of-times frenzy, Paul wanted them to show more practical acts of care for one another. Why is brotherly love in the church a powerful evangelistic strategy to reach the world?
3. How can you change the way you attend church to know people better and practically meet their needs?
4. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11a.** What is a quiet life, and why is it more impactful for Jesus than a loud one? In what areas of life do you need to become quieter?
5. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11b.** How much time do you spend critiquing others instead of minding your own business? What is the danger of this habit?
6. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11c.** While there are times when benevolence is appropriate, how can laziness and expecting a handout from the church work against evangelism?
7. Why is a Christian who lives a quiet life serving others, minds their own business, holds down a job, and is generous with their money a powerful way to soften hearts to hear about Jesus?