

Bible Study – November 3, 2021
1 Thessalonians 4 – “A Life Pleasing to God Part II”

A few words about the issue of fornication addressed last week are in order.

The word translated “fornication” in verse 3 is the Greek word “porneia.” This word has been such to a great deal of misinterpretation. The proper interpretation of “porneia” in the Bible is that the word either refers to “sexual relations with a prostitute (i.e., a ‘pornos,’ as in 1 Corinthians 6: 13-20; and 1 Corinthians 7),” or it refers to a specific form of sexual activity made clear by the context of the passage that was deemed “sexually immoral.” For example, 1 Corinthians 5: 1 identifies the specific type of behavior being addressed; namely, “a man was having sexual relations with his stepmother (i.e., ‘his father’s wife.’). Any interpretation of “porneia” to mean “premarital sex” while common, should be rejected. The definition of “fornication” as premarital sex is a modern interpretation that has nothing to do with the context of the Bible. Instead, it is an interpretation of “fornication” that has its origins in the effort of men in pre-scientific societies to determine the legitimacy of their rightful (male) heir by restricting and policing women’s sexual expression. Notions of “purity” and “holiness” were used to provide a religious and moral basis for the view, but it really had nothing to do with purity or holiness. It was to prove the paternity of a (male) child by controlling women’s sexuality. Also, keep in mind that the despite the rhetoric of purity and holiness, men did not apply these standards to themselves. It was mainly just for women.

Paul described a threefold walk for the Christian to follow. The first of which is to “**Walk in Holiness.**”

WALK IN _____ (1 Thes. 4:9–10)

WALK IN _____ (1 Thes. 4:11–12)

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 PAUL COMFORTS THE BELIEVERS

REVELATION: We Have _____ (1 Thes. 4:13, 15a)

RETURN: _____ is Coming _____ (1 Thes. 4:14-15)

RESURRECTION: The Christian _____ will _____ (1 Thes. 4:15-16)

RAPTURE: Living _____ Up (1 Thes. 4:17)

REUNION: _____ with the _____ (1 Thes. 4:17-18)

NOTES:
