

b. Concerning God the Holy Spirit

The present tense verb "give" shows that the Lord never takes away the Spirit from the child of God. His consistent and constant activity describes Him as "the Giver." It is His character. So each believer receives the Holy Spirit at his new birth (John 7:39; Rom. 8:9). This is his inalienable possession. But the emphasis is on the term "holy." It is the very subject of the section. How could anything less than absolute morality be our desire with such a possession!

Conclusion God has a standard. It is not to be ignored. It is the height of insolence to disregard proper relationships in marriage and cleanliness of life in whatever state we find ourselves. May He be extolled now and forever. Amen.

THE BOOK OF FIRST THESSALONIANS

"The Bible and Sexual Control"

1 Thessalonians 4:4-8

Introduction

1. Morality and theology are handmaidens. It is utter nonsense to divorce what a man believes from what a man lives. This is not high sounding talk, but the Biblical position on ethics and behavior (Col. 2:6).

2. Apparently the Thessalonians had lapsed into pre-salvation activity. They were called now to renounce that and take the true position of living a changed life because they were changed (2 Cor. 5:17). This is not some sort of liberal positive thinking modus, but a charge from God!

3. This section is included among the final thoughts of Paul for the Thessalonians (4:1). It relates to the subject of moral purity. It is the subject of appeal (v. 1), doctrine (v. 1), growth (v. 1), command (v. 2) and God's will (v. 3). There is more:

1. It is the subject of INSTRUCTION v. 4.

a. Individually

The singular of the pronoun here makes it imperative that each child of God attend to the matter in hand. While some may feel an insensitivity to these issues, God goes to the person to person idea. "Each" is a big word and is linked with the verb "know." It means to have a care for and to regard (cf. 5:12). There is no excuse for lack of knowledge.

b. Personally

"His own" is linked with the verb "possess," a present tense middle verb. Now the term "vessel" may refer to "body" or "wife," but in either case the end is the same. A man must treat his wife/body (Eph. 5:28) in a very special manner. There is personal responsibility advanced here.

c. Ethically

"Sanctification" is a reference to chastity (cf.

