

1 Thessalonians 2

1. If the grace of God has saved us from eternal death and completely paid for our sins, why do we still need God's grace?

-So that we can learn more about God in order to strengthen our own faith and to teach others.

2. Should we teach only until the people believe and then stop?

-No.

-We should continue to teach the people and continue to pray for their faith so that they will become disciples of Christ.

3. What is the greatest gift in all of eternity?

-To be chosen by God to believe in Him.

4. Who convinces all Christians that a teaching is not from man but from God?

-The Holy Spirit.

5. When we teach unbelievers, can we convince them in our own power that we are teaching the Word of God?

-No.

-Only the Holy Spirit can do this.

6. Is it enough for us just to teach about Jesus?

-No.

-We must also live like Jesus.

7. How do we know if people are truly saved from serving idols to serving the living and true God?

-Because these new Christians will not be afraid to tell others.

8. Why do Christians no longer fear the wrath of God?

-Because Christ has paid the full payment for our sins by His death on the cross.

-In 1 Thessalonians chapter 1, we learned about the new faith of the Christians in Thessalonica.

-For chapters 2 and 3, we will study these later.

-Now, we will study 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

-The Christians in Thessalonica had turned from idols to serve the living and true God.

-Now, God through Paul encourages the Thessalonian Christians and all Christians to live in order to please God.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

1-As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

2-For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

-Why do we Christians live in order to please God?

-Because living to please God is the best for us.

-Because living to please God is the best life we can live.

-Because living to please God honors our God the most.

-If we are already living to please God, why does the Word of God urge us to do more and more?

-To want to know God more and more is the foundation for the growth of our soul.

-Even though Paul knew God, he wanted to know God more and more.

-In Philippians 3:12, Paul said this about himself:

-“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

-All Christians should want to know God more and more.

-If we do not want to know our God more and more, then there is something wrong.

-To stop learning more and more about God only hurts us.

-To stop learning more and more about God means that we may lose that which God has for us.

-Why would we want to stop learning more and more about God when knowing God more and more can only bless us?

-This was the problem with the Corinthian Christians.

-At the beginning, they believed in Christ, but after they first believed, it seems they stopped learning about God.

-Here is what God through Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2:

1-“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.

2-I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.”

-It seems that the Christians in Corinth had stopped learning about God and were still spiritual babies.

-How do we learn to know God more and more?

-We ask our God to teach us by studying His Word.

-In Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus said this:

7-“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8-For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

-If we ask God to teach us more and more, He will teach us.

-If we do not ask God to teach us more and more, what are we?

-We are spiritual babies.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3-It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

4-that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable,

5-not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God.

-Both Corinth and Thessalonica are cities in Greece.

-In both Corinth and Thessalonica, sexual immorality was everywhere.

-Also in this world today, sexual immorality is everywhere.

-As we learn from these verses, it is God will for all Christians to be sanctified, avoiding sexual immorality.

-To be sanctified means to be separated from sin for God alone.

-If we are Christian, God has already sanctified us, and as part of our sanctification, we are to avoid sexual immorality.

-What is sexual immorality?

-It is sex outside of marriage.

-In Matthew 5:27-28, the Lord Jesus taught against sexual immorality:

-“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

-For most Christians, what is one of the biggest temptations?

-The temptation to be sexually immoral.

-Christians can and do commit sexual immorality, but it is not the will of our Father.

-What happens when we commit the sin of sexual immorality or any sin?

-It dishonors our God and it dishonors us as well.

-God has given us bodies that have physical needs, but we must learn to control our bodies.

-Why must we learn to control our bodies?

- Because we live in a world of Satan and sin.
- Because Satan and sin want to destroy us by encouraging us to sin.
- When we are hungry, we have a need to eat food.
- Yet, if we eat too much, we will vomit and get sick.
- When we are young men and young women, we have a need to get married and to sleep together.
- Yet, if we commit sexual immorality, the sin will hurt us as well as all of our friends.
- If we do not control our bodies in this world of sin, we will suffer, dishonoring God and dishonoring ourselves.
- How do we control our bodies in a way that is holy and honorable?
- We must ask God to help us to guard our eyes and our mind.
- This is because only God is more powerful than sexual immorality and all sin.
- Our eyes are the door to our mind, and if our eyes continue to look at sexual immorality, our mind will also be affected.

- If we pray, however, and ask God to protect our eyes and our mind, He will do so.
- In 1 Corinthians 6:18, the Word of God tells us to flee sexual immorality.
- If we run away from sexual immorality, then we will not be tempted.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:6-7

6-And that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

7-For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

- In the verse above, what is "this matter"?
- It is the matter of sexual immorality.
- The Word of God teaches us that we are not to sexually wrong or sexually take advantage of a brother or sister.
- Here is an example:
- A Christian young man may say this to a young woman:
- "God told me to marry you."

-Then the young man would have sex with the woman without becoming married.

-This is not from God, and is wrong.

-The Word of God says that “the Lord will punish all those who commit such sins.”

-As Christians, our sins are completely paid for on the cross by the blood of Christ.

-Therefore, what does God mean when He says that He will punish all who commit such sins?

-While the spiritual souls of Christians who sin will not be punished with eternal death, our physical bodies may be punished.

-God may allow these people to have many problems in their lives or many problems with their physical bodies or they may even have an early death.

-In the church at Corinth, some Christians were physically weak and sick and others had died because of their sins (1 Co 11:30).

-In Matthew 18:6, the Lord Jesus said that if a believer caused another believer to sin, then they merit to be drowned or killed.

-While the spiritual souls of Christians who sin will not

be punished with eternal death, we may lose some of our eternal reward.

-In the Word of God, we learn in 2 Corinthians 5:10 that all Christians will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

-What is the judgment seat of Christ?

-The judgment seat of Christ is only for Christians and it is not to judge our sins, for Christ has completely paid for our sins on the cross.

-The judgment seat of Christ will be at the end of our lives on earth, and if we have done good as Christians, then we will receive a reward.

-If we as Christians, however, have done bad, then we will receive little or no reward.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:8

8-Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

-What are we doing when we reject the Word of God?

-We are rejecting God.

-Here is an illustration:

-If a man came to you with a letter from the president and you told him to go away, who would you be rejecting?

-You would be rejecting the president.

-Because God has given all Christians the Holy Spirit, we have the Holy Spirit not only to teach us but also to help us to flee from sexual immorality.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

9-Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

10-And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more.

-As we were taught to please God more and more, we are now taught to love our family in Christ more and more.

-Will our love for others ever be perfect?

-No.

-Here on earth, our love for others will never be perfect, but we must continue to allow the love of our God to love others through us more and more.

-Without God's love in our lives, what do we have?

-Selfishness and pride.

-Therefore, we must either allow God's love more and more in our lives or to suffer under selfishness and pride.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

11-And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,

12-So that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

-The Word of God teaches us to lead a quiet life, mind our own business, and work with our hands.

-Why should we do this?

-That non-Christians would see us and be drawn to the Christ in us, and that we would not be dependent on others.

-Both our words and our actions should be full of Christ so that others would be drawn to our Lord.

-People are drawn to Christ not only by our words, but also by our actions.

-By working with our hands so that we will not be dependent on others but rather help others, this will also draw people to our Lord.