



1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 and 4:1-8

What is your schedule like this week? Do you plan your week in light of what God might want you to do?

To Paul, the apostle...ALL IS OF GOD...

WE SHOULD MAKE OUR SCHEDULE (short-term and long-term) IN LIGHT OF GOD'S SCHEDULE FOR OUR LIVES!

Nothing compares to listening and heeding to God's special plans for our lives!

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13, "Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."

Wow! Paul really depended on God to direct his "comings and goings." Question is...Do we?

It is in a simple passage like this that we see Paul's mindset and heart. For Paul....Everything was of God.

- ✓ ***He prays to God to open a way for him whereby he may come to Thessalonica.*** It was to God that he turned for guidance in the ordinary day to day problems of life.

One of the great mistakes of life is to turn to God only in the overpowering emergencies and the shattering crises.

A young man who went sailing quite often said to a pastor, "You know, when I am at home I hardly ever listen to the weather forecasts, but when I'm on that sailboat or getting ready to sail, I listen to those forecasts with all my ears."

It is quite possible to do without the weather forecasts when life is comfortably safe; it is essential to listen when life might depend on them.

We are apt to try to do the same with God. In ordinary things we disregard him, thinking that we can manage well enough by ourselves; in the emergency we clutch at him, knowing that we cannot get through without him.

- ✓ ***He prays to God that he will enable the Thessalonians to fulfill the law of love in their daily lives.*** We often wonder why the Christian life is so difficult, especially in the ordinary everyday relationships. The answer may very well be that we are trying to live it by ourselves. The man who goes out in the morning without prayer is, in effect, saying, "I can quite well tackle today on my own."
- ✓ ***Paul prays to God for the ultimate safety. At this time his mind was full of thoughts of the Second Coming of Christ when men would stand before the judgment seat of God.*** It was his prayer that God would so preserve his people in righteousness that on that day they would not be ashamed. The only way to prepare to meet God is to live daily for him.



**BE AN ENCOURAGER...WITHOUT A DISCOURAGING
WORD EVER UTTERED TOWARDS FAMILY, FRIENDS,
NEIGHBORS...AND GOD HIMSELF!**

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18, "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. 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; 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. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

“As for other matters”...Paul was saying, “I have heard about some things that I need to talk to you about.”

These were “brothers and sisters” in the Lord.

- ***The Thessalonian church members were “new” in the faith... and immature as Christians...growing in the Lord.***

Remember—when you start from scratch, you have a long way to go before you get to where you need to be.

- ***Paul was thankful for the growth he saw in the Thessalonians, but still looked for them to abound “more and more” in a walk that would please God.***

“More and more:” This means that Christian maturity is never finished on this side of eternity. No matter how far a Christian has come in love and holiness, he or she can still **abound more and more**.

We will not arrive at our destination and call our journey complete until we cross life’s finish line... righteousness will prevail only as we go beyond the veil.

“We can stretch toward the mark of the high calling of God...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

Can we please God on this side of eternity? Yes, but only by our washing in the blood of the Lamb. We will never do it on our own.

THE COMMAND TO BE SEXUALLY PURE

Sexual Immorality...The sin that so easily besets so many in the world of the church then and now!

Evidently, the church members were having trouble understanding God’s way of keeping oneself pure. The new members of the church (which were practically all in the church) had come out of a liberal, free to do as you please with your own body culture.

Without knowing all the details, we do know that Paul was addressing the church members when he was talking about...i.e. “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; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.”

These church members had to change their mindset, their desire setting, their impulse setting...their passion button. New laws set down by Paul...who received revelation from God about holy living.

One of the greatest gifts God gave us as human beings is the sexual passion for the opposite sex. In all areas of the fulfillment of that passion is in the marriage covenant between man and woman. This is God's gift...but, man wants to make new laws and decrees to counteract and corrupt this gift.

Adultery, fornication, homosexual acts and other forms of sex is Satan's attack on God's gift.

Corrupted Sex probably has the strongest pull by Satan...strongest deceitful temptation by Satan known to man.

Paul knew that. How he knew that...I don't know; unless he saw the destruction and devastation it caused in the lives of people...especially Christians.

Final word is "Sex is between a man and woman who has vowed through marriage to love and keep their spouse fulfilled in every way...Giving back to God a gift with honor.

REASONS FOR THE COMMAND TO BE SEXUALLY PURE

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

Four (4) Reasons for the Command:

- 1. We can trust that God will punish sexual immorality, and that no one gets away with this sin – even if it is undiscovered.***
- 2. Because of our call.*** That call is not to uncleanness, but to holiness; therefore, sexual immorality is simply inconsistent with who we are in Jesus Christ.
- 3. Because to reject God's call to sexual purity is not rejecting man, but God Himself.*** Despite the petty ways many rationalize sexual immorality, we still reject God when we sin in this way.
- 4. Because we have been given the Holy Spirit, who empowers the willing, trusting Christian to overcome sexual sin. By His Spirit, God has given us the resources for victory; we are responsible to use those resources.***