

WALK IN PURITY
(1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)

I. There is to be an abounding (vs. 1-2).

- A. Paul begs them and encourages to abound in pleasing God by following the commandments he had given them.
 - 1. It is not as if Paul did not think they were living right.
 - 2. He had already praised them for the growth of their faith.
 - 3. Paul simply wanted them to continue growing and to not be satisfied with where they were spiritually.
- B. Abound literally means to superabound, to be in excess.
 - 1. Paul wanted them to grow and grow and grow.
 - 2. There is to be no complacency in the Christian life.
- C. They were to do this out of a sense of moral obligation.
 - 1. This is the idea of the word ought.
 - 2. It carries the idea of an unavoidable, urgent compulsory necessity.
 - 3. This was something they just had to do.
- D. The reason for the sense of oughtness is that Jesus died for them and they should want to grow for Him.
 - 1. The same is true for us today.
 - 2. The Lord has done so much for us that we should want and desire, more than anything, to grow.
- E. That which he desired for them to follow were the commands he had given them while with them.
 - 1. Paul had taught them the truth and they were expected to remember what had been taught.
 - 2. What he was going to say to them was for the means of refreshing their minds.
- F. There should be a great desire on the part of each Christian to grow.
 - 1. As a Christian we should want to grow.
 - 2. As we add things to our lives we should want to grow in them as well.
 - a. If I'm a preacher I should want to grow as one.
 - b. If I'm an elder, I should want to grow as one.
 - c. If I'm a bible class teacher, I should want to grow as one.
 - 3. There is no room for mediocrity or standing pat.

II. There is to be abstinence (vs. 3-5).

- A. The first area in which there should be an abounding is in the area of sexual purity.
 - 1. This is applicable to the single Christian as well as to the married Christian.
 - 2. This was something unheard of in the Greek world.
 - 3. Immorality was part and parcel of the Greek lifestyle.
- B. However, God's will is for Christians to be sexually pure.
 - 1. This also allows one to stay separate from the world.
 - 2. The world knows nothing about sexual purity and refuses to even

shows its fruits in maintaining one's health in sexual education classes.

- C. God has taught us how to maintain our bodies in His word.
 - 1. It is a sign of sanctification for one to be sexually pure.
 - 2. Our bodies were created by God and we are to honor His workmanship by keeping them pure.
 - 3. The vessel of our body is wonderful and should be maintained as God intended.
- D. We are not to give into the lust and impulses of the flesh, which is the meaning of concupiscence.
 - 1. This is the way that people who don't know God live.
 - 2. They allow themselves to give into every whim their minds devise.
 - 3. This leads to a life of misery and sorrow.
 - 4. You can read the book of Ecclesiastes and see that to which it leads.

III. **There is to be no adultery (vs. 6a).**

- A. No Christian is to commit adultery.
 - 1. This is the idea of defrauding one's brother.
 - 2. Defraud means to overreach, take more that is yours.
 - 3. Adultery is a terrible sin that destroys trust and souls.
- B. The Proverbs writer had much to say about adultery.
 - 1. 6:32.
 - 2. 30:20.
 - 3. 7:24-27.
- C. So much is ruined by adultery.
 - 1. The lives of children and parents.
 - 2. The friendships that once were dear are now destroyed.
- D. Great heartache and difficulties lie ahead for congregations who have members that commit adultery.

IV. **There will be an avenging (6b-8).**

- A. When I fail to abound and abstain, or give in to adultery, God will avenge.
- B. This was something that Paul had taught them already.
 - 1. God is going to punish sin.
 - 2. Those that find themselves impure morally are going to be judged by God for such.
- C. The reason is that God has not called us to be filthy spiritually, but to be holy, separate from the world.
- D. Notice verse 8 because it is something we need to entrench in our minds.
 - 1. When we reject this teaching, we are not rejecting the one who brings the teaching to our attention.
 - 2. We are rejecting the One who devised the teaching in the first place.
- E. You don't reject the messenger, but the One who sent him with the message.
- F. God has given the Holy Spirit to remind us of His call to purity.
 - 1. Every time we read the Bible the Holy Spirit is reminding us of the

- call of God.
2. It must be something of great importance to God to send His Holy Spirit to remind us of it.