

STUDY 5: WALKING TO PLEASE THE LORD

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 12

You can know with 100% certainty God's will for your life. How?

DEEP IN THE WORD

Look at v.3 ...'this is the will of God, your sanctification ...'

1. From v.1 and 2, what did the Thessalonians receive from Paul and Silas, and what is Paul urging them to do?
2. Sanctification (v.3) is one of those big Christian words. What is it? And, how does sanctification differ from another big Christian word, justification (Romans 5:18)? Discuss. A good resource here may be a book of concise theology, e.g. 'Know the Truth' (Bruce Milne) or 'Concise Theology' (JI Packer).
3. Verses 3b – 8 focus on one area of our sanctification. What is that one area?
4. Why does Paul single out sexual immorality? Why is developing sexual purity such a key part of our sanctification? Is Paul just being a sexually repressed and hung up Christian, or is there something particular about sexual sin? You may find Paul's teaching elsewhere provides clues. Check out Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and 10:6-14 (especially v.7 and 14), Galatians 5:16 – 24 and Ephesians 4:17-24. Discuss.

DEEP IN PRAYER

We know for sure God's will for our lives. We also know just how hard that is for us. We are in a battle between the flesh and the Spirit. We need God's grace daily, just as we need each other to pray for us and humbly walk beside us in the battle. Pray for one another. Some may even wish to share their burden.