

**Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**Sermon: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

10. How could our work habits distract from our Christian witness?

Study 4: Living to please God.

Readings: 1Thessalonians 4:1 - 12

Who is someone you would like to please? Why do you want to do this?

11. Of the various exhortations Paul has given in this passage what speaks most to you in your Christian life?

Read 1Thessalonians 4:1 - 12:

1. We need to remember that this is a response to the grace of God, the Gospel that had been proclaimed to the Thessalonians and received with faith. Why is it important to remember this?
2. In the last verse of last weeks passage (3:13) Paul prays for God's strength, why is this important? What is the context in which we and the Thessalonians are to live our lives?

3. Paul acknowledges that the Thessalonians are indeed pleasing to God. Why then does he exhort them to do this more and more?
  4. How can the society in which we live push us into living in a way that is at odds with our relationship with Jesus?
  5. As reminded in the first question we need to remember it is God who saves us, yet it is important to reflect on how we live our lives. Why?
  6. In v3 Paul tells us that it is God's will that we should be sanctified. What practical things does Paul then warn against? How does this relate to the society that the Thessalonians live in?
  7. Paul highlights sexual immorality. We often think of this as something that affects us only. Why then does Paul warn in v6 about wronging or taking advantage of a brother or sister?
  8. In v9 and 10 Paul commends the Thessalonians for their love. What could a group with such a reputation do to love each other even more?
  9. In 2Thessalonians 3:6ff Paul warns against idleness. Many scholars think that v11 and 12 are likewise aimed at those who had given up work and relying on the generosity of others. What exhortation does Paul give? Why is he worried about the effect on the outsider (12)?
- How is Paul's ministry life an example to them?