

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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October 11 – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3

Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ²for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

⁹But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹²that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing. ¹³But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

In this portion of Scripture the apostle Paul encourages believers to abound more and more in the love of God. In other words you need to keep growing in your love for God and others. This is the greatest commandment of all, the one that Jesus gave his disciples saying a new

commandment I give you that you love one another as I have loved you and by this all men will know that you are my disciples if you show love for one another. Paul also talks about the coming of the Lord Jesus and why we should not sorrow as other people that have no hope because Jesus Christ did rise from the dead and all of those that have believed in Christ and have already died he will bring with him when he returns and there will be a resurrection of the dead and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and be with him forever! This is the Christian Hope, to have everlasting life.

He also reminds the believers at Thessalonica about how he encouraged them to live a lifestyle that honors and pleases God in their sexual activity. It's about as clear as you can read and understand because he says this is the will of God even your sanctification that you should abstain from fornication or sex before marriage. Then Paul uses a very interesting phrase when he says no one should go beyond in the defraud or take advantage of his brother which means that if you are a believer in Jesus Christ then you should not go beyond the boundaries of the Word of God regarding your sex life. No one should take advantage of another believer or anyone sexually. The only relationship that God permits sex is between a married man and woman. Hebrews 13:4 says "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

This world under the influence of the devil and Hollywood has made sex a god. Now there exists all kinds of organized crime pushing prostitution and human sex trafficking. This is totally exploiting or taking advantage of people by selling their bodies for financial profit. Sex has become corrupted by sin and is a perversion outside the bonds of the marriage covenant. In the eyes of God there is holy or sanctified sex then there is unholy sinful sex. Sex between a man and woman in marriage is blessed and right. The two have become one and now their bodies belong to each other to be kept exclusively for each other for procreation and sexual fulfillment. Here's a short list of sexual relationships that are outside of God's will and condemned as sin:

- Fornication: sex between a man and woman before marriage
- Adultery: sex after marriage with someone other than your husband or wife.
- Incest: sex between family members other than your spouse.
- Homosexual: sex between men.
- Lesbian: sex between women.
- Pornography: sex with images.
- Bestiality: sex with animals.

Remember that in the beginning, God made man and woman and blessed their union as husband and wife. He made them Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve! It's written in Genesis 2:24-25 "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." When people come to Christ and are born-again they are saying yes to Jesus Christ as Lord and that means accepting God's standards for sexual identification and purity which are clearly defined in the Holy Bible. Many times people come to Christ and they are living in adultery or fornication or

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some kind of other sinful sexual relationship from which they need to repent. It is very important that we take sexual purity seriously because we honor or dishonor God through our sexual life styles. If we want to be blessed then we need to obey God concerning what he says about sex because the wicked will be condemned because of their sins.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Paul encourages all believers to continue to grow in their love for God and others.
- 2) The coming of Christ and eternal life is the Christians hope.
- 3) Living in sexual purity according to the word of God pleases the Lord.

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