



A WALK THAT PLEASES GOD

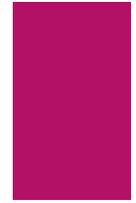
1 THESSALONIANS 3:13-4:8

1 Thessalonians 3:13-4:3

- ▶ *¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. ¹ 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; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

▶ ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that 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. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.







The Christian Walk

Jesus Set the Bar High



Three Brothers



W. L.: Drake Relays Jumping at 6'10"



Jesus Set the Bar High (1)

- ▶ Hebrews 4:15: *15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:21: *21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Jesus Set the Bar High (2)

- ▶ Hebrews 7:26: *26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;*
- ▶ 1 Peter 1:18-19: *18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Jesus Set the Bar High (3)

- ▶ 1 Peter 2:22: Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth.”
- ▶ 1 John 3:5: *And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.*



AT JESUS COMING WE WILL ALL CLEAR THE BAR

- ▶ v. 13: *“So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”*

WHAT DOES HE TELL US HERE?

- ▶ What? He will establish our hearts blameless in holiness.
 - ▶ Right now none of us are blameless or perfectly holy.
 - ▶ Every Christian is on a journey that's called sanctification.
- ▶ V. 3: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification.*

Sanctification

- ▶ Right now none of us are perfectly holy. There is no natural holiness in men.
 - ▶ We are good at putting on a show of holiness.
 - ▶ The Pharisees of Jesus' day is a prime example. Paul was one of those Pharisees.
 - ▶ He now understood - True holiness comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ.



Where? Before God and the Father.

- ▶ No man is perfectly holy in this life; no man is without sin in himself.
- ▶ There is no unblameable holiness but in Christ – In Him we stand before God without spot and blemish because He is the Lamb without spot and blemish who died for our sins.

When? At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

- ▶ Philippians 3:20-21: *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

When?

- ▶ 1 John 3:2-3: *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

Three Commands We Must Obey

- ▶ V. 3b: “*Abstain from sexual immorality.*”
 - ▶ “abstain” means to “do without.”
- ▶ see the word “abstain” in the Bible we know two things for certain:
 - ▶ It is a command of God
 - ▶ It is an absolute prohibition
 - ▶ We ought to take it seriously.



Paul is writing to these new Thessalonian believers.

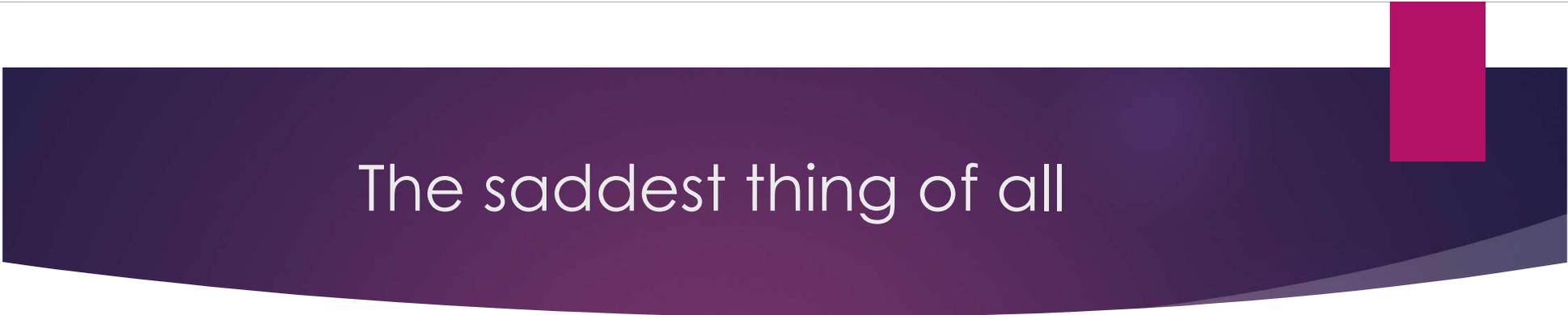
- ▶ William Barclay's commentary on 1 Thessalonians – Daily Study Bible, p. 231
- ▶ Paul understood the holiness of God and the need for these new believers to leave behind – to abstain – from that old immoral lifestyle.

Control your own body

- ▶ Vv. 4-5 – ⁴ *that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.*
- ▶ A God-empowered man controls his own body. If God is not in control, the body controls the man.
- ▶ Things that used to be found “under the counter” are now only a click of the mouse away.

Don't cheat another person

- ▶ *v. 6: No one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter.*
- ▶ Immorality is like that -- It always cheats someone else -- usually someone you love. Just ask any wife whose husband has left for another woman. Or just ask any Christian parent whose child has had an affair. Or, even sadder, just ask any church members who have seen their pastor fall into sexual sin.



The saddest thing of all

▶ LUST NEVER SATISFIES!!!

Three Facts God Wants You To Know

- ▶ God will punish those who practice immorality
 - ▶ V. 6b: “because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.”
- ▶ God has called us to purity - V. 7:⁷ *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*”
- ▶ Rejecting purity means rejecting God, V. 8: “*He who rejects this does not reject man, but God.*”