

THE MYTH OF LUST: YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE SO GO FOR THE GUSTO! I THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

Researchers have found that even in the world of nature the myth persists that bigger is better. One group of scientists made a cardboard version of a female butterfly during mating season and placed it among the other females. The males were released and all hovered around the larger, unreal, false, and fake female – while all the genuine females waited in the distance.

Until that cardboard lifeless model was removed, the males never would pay attention to the real world even for a moment. So is lust in our world today. It teaches us to look at the outward instead of the inward; it says bigger is better. It leaves us unsatisfied, unfulfilled, and empty as long as we allow lust to live unhindered in our lives.

Illustration: Cardboard butterflies Hughes, James, p. 169.

I. **DECIDE TO PLEASE GOD BY YOUR CONDUCT. v. 1**

- A. First - holy living is not an option. It's an imperative. "ought"
- B. Second - holy living is not momentary. It's continuous "to walk"
- C. Third - holy living is not private. It is [and shall be] public. "to please god"
- D. Because of these three, look at the end of the road, look at second corinthians 5:10. The day of reckoning.
 - 1. "must" - no option = compulsory
 - 2. "all/each one" = personal
 - 3. "appear" made manifest = public
 - 4. "recompensed" individually paid = specific

II. **PLAN TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S COMMANDMENTS v.2**

- A. Don't miss this - that word "C" is a military term for passing on orders.
- B. Look at John 14:15-21. Because we love we obey!

III. **FOLLOW GOD'S WILL. v. 3 OUR CALLING IS TO DO GOD'S WILL.** This is anarthrous = no article. Indefinite. This is something "God wills". There are others... It is our calling. Holiness is God's will - The first step to holy living is doing God's will - God's will starts with holy living

- A. God's will is that we be sanctified, holy and pure (I Th. 4:3)

- B. God's will is that we be (I Th. 5:18) Thankful
- C. God's will is that we be (Eph 5:18) Be being filled with H.S.
- D. God's will is that we be (I Pet. 2:13-15) Submissive
- E. God's will is that we be (I Pet. 4:19 / 5:10) Suffering
- F. God's will is that we be (2 Pet. 3:9) Saved

IV. **PURSUE PERSONAL HOLINESS v. 4** COMMITMENTS to personal holiness - to pure living. Vessel = body 2 Tim. 2:20-22 God says FORNICATION is wrong = any sex contact prior to wedding, mentally or physically. That's videos, magazines, movies, TV, beachwatching: girl watching... living together, parking, petting... God says ADULTERY is wrong = any mental/physical contact other than with wife. If started - stop, repent, restore. If not started, - DON'T! You say HARD! Yes, always been that way. How? Mk 7:21-23 Because starts with mind Victory - We have a priority to be holy * Our bodies are God's temple

- A. **REMEMBER YOU ARE JUST A RENTER! WATCH YOUR DEPOSIT!** I Cor. 6:19-20 - bought
- B. **REGULARLY RENEW YOUR LEASE!** Rom. 12:1,2 - So give back to owner
 - 1. That means - What we put in our body must be holy to God - not alcohol, drugs, cigarettes.
 - 2. What we do with our bodies must be holy to God - no immoral, fornications, adulterous, impure things. No dissipation, overeating/gluttony, No lack of discipline
 - 3. What we put on our body must be holy to God - modesty, propriety, sanctity, purity
 - a) II Cor. 10:5 TAKE thots captive
 - b) Col. 3:1 LOCK affections upward
 - c) Eph. 6:17 WEAR helmet / use sword
 - d) II Tim. 2:22 FLEE lust
 - e) I Pet 5:9 RESIST devil
 - 4. WOMEN... I Tim. 2:9 = be modest I Pet. 3:3