

A Godly Reminder

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Introduction: As we move through the daily grind of life it is easy to get caught in what we often call a rut. We find ourselves repeating the same things over and over often without really knowing why. While repetition is necessary in our daily lives it can lead us down the road to an ungodly lifestyle. For instance, we gather in the workplace; while there the routine begins to take us down an immoral conversation, at first we may shy away knowing it is wrong but after a while we become desensitized to the behavior. Then if we do not totally remove ourselves we find ourselves participating. So you think using immorality as an example was extreme. How many T.V. commercials, T.V. shows, half time sports shows, or music videos have you seen over the past twenty years that have actually been moral? The Bible uses fornication (immorality) because it involves all sin. For example those who are engaged in fornication or immoral behavior must also, lie, cheat, steal, practice idolatry; get the point. Likewise those who allow themselves to get drawn into any ungodly behavior make themselves vulnerable to immorality. Our 21st century society bears an honest witness to this. Our passage today gives us a reminder of what is expected of Christians. Actually let's consider it a godly reminder that addresses...

I. The Christian does have a foundation V.4:1-2

A. Established from encouragement (exhort)

Paul had preached to them truth from Gods word, truth can be summarized as:

1. Salvation truth from Romans

The principles, practice, and problems of living out the gospel.

2. Sanctifying truth from 1 Corinthians

Warnings to the local church; division, disorder, difficulties and disbelief; personally from marriage to meats, public worship from table (lords supper) to tongues.

3. Separation truth from Galatians

Concerning legalism and liberalism

4. Soaring truth from Ephesians

Defines the church as body, building, and bride

5. Stimulating truth from Philippians

Regarding suffering, sacrifice, service, and sickness

6. Sobering truth from Colossians

Sets before us the truth about Christ, cults and the Christian

7. Sanctuary truth from Hebrews

Establishes Judaism is obsolete and replaced by better things; better savior, better sacrifice, better sanctuary, better security, better spokesman, and better society

B. Engaged by our life (walk)

1. Examples we have
2. Examples we give

C. Evolves into growth (abound, commandments)

A glorious (abounding; abundant) life resides in learning & living commandments, they accompany Christianity!

1. Salvation isn't the end, it is the beginning
2. Submission isn't a personal choice (L.S., baptism, study) it is divine priority.
3. Tithing, church attendance, discipline, personal evangelism, marriage and family should be willing obedience not obligation.
4. Christ is a possession not a profession!

Not only does the Christian have a foundation that never should be forgotten, we are reminded...

II. The Christian should have an appeal to purity V.v.3-5

A. That is found in sanctification (holiness) v3

1. Positional holiness

"1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Set apart by Jesus Christ to serve God

2. Progressive holiness

"Romans 6:12-23" The holiness Paul is writing about in our text. Holiness that is personally cultivated and pursued diligently and made possible by the power of the H.S.

3. Perfected holiness

"1 Thessalonians 3:13" The end result of a Christian when we come into the Lords presence for eternity.

Holiness is a sharp contrast to ungodliness (fornication) where we see the effect of a defiled heart guiding a defiled life resulting in a defiled soul.

B. That is found in subjugation v4

Still speaking of morality we are reminded, Self - control of your body establishes joint control of your marriage. Self-control should be present in all areas of life! i.e. sexually, temper, language, behavior...

C. That is found in separation v5

Christians aren't better than anyone, forgiven sinners, because of forgiveness we should live separated lives. We are to transform the world as a living example of God's grace and mercy, if we don't live it who will?

We should be ever aware of our foundation, and have an ever present appeal to purity, then we should realize...

III. A Christian has no flexibility V.v.6-8

Christians do not have flexibility to apply God's word as we please, we live it according to God's direction, living obedience and striving to avoid disobedience.

Today we hear a lot about tolerance, when applied to the word of God there is no such thing in Gods eyes. To apply flexibility to Gods word is disobedient and that results in first in Gods chastisement and second in Gods judgment.

Conclusion: As I close this message; will our musicians come and select a hymn of invitation? This morning as we look into the mirror of God's word we should see some things reflected that stir our hearts back to reality from Gods perspective. We should see the reflection of salvation, in other words there is nothing this side of heaven that can compare with being a born again Christian! Only those who have experienced salvation can understand what I mean. If you're here today and don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior I want to encourage you to make that decision before you leave! Those who are born again understand this; you have a new life. Then we should see the reflection of obedience. With this new life comes certain expectations from the Lord. They're achievable only through faith and trust in Jesus with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and a close walk with God. This message should have either established those expectations or renewed them. Now the question you are faced with is; how will you apply them to your life? Yes the Lord expects them but you have to choose obedience. This morning will you commit to the Lord, in salvation if needed, always in obedience to Gods word, Gods will and Gods way? As we sing If the Holy Spirit is dealing with your heart will you come?