

January 10, 2016

“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: Living to Please God”

1 Thessalonians Chapters 3-4:12

“Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.” 1 Thessalonians 4:1

A. Trials...

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.”

James 1:2-4 The Message

1. Trials will come... “But I trust you, Lord!”

“Not that the troubles should come as any surprise to you. You’ve always known that we’re in for this kind of thing. It’s part of our calling.” vs 3:3 The Message

2. You warned us that trials will come... “And I still trust you, Lord!”

“When we were with you, we made it quite clear that there was trouble ahead. And now that it’s happened, you know what it’s like.” vs 3:4 The Message

3. You were concerned about our faith in trials for fear that the enemy would undo what God had accomplished... “And still I will trust you, Lord!”

“I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.” vs 3:5b NLT

4. When trials come, God says... “Stand firm!”

“So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith. It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord.” vs. 3:7-8 NLT



B. When trials come...

1. Realize God has work to do in all of us!

“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord--who is the Spirit--makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT

2. Allow Him to do the needed work in your life!

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28 NLT

3. Keep your focus as you walk through the trial!

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2

4. Remember...

a. It is temporary!

“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.” 1 Peter 1:6 NLT

b. Consider it joy!

“These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” 1 Peter 1:7 NLT

c. Trust God in all things!

“In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.” 1 Peter 5:10

d. God has great things ahead!

“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.” Romans 8:18

C. It is God’s will for you to be holy...

“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified:...” vs 4:3

1. Holiness is a place of surrender!

“Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.” Romans 6:13

2. Holiness is a daily choice!

“Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.” Romans 6:16

3. Holiness is a progression!

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” Philippians 1:6

4. Holiness is a destination!

“But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:15-16

“Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

D. So...make it happen...more and more...

1. Build in faith...more... “supply what is lacking in your faith.”

2. Please God...more and more... “to do this more and more.”

3. Love others...more and more... “we urge you...to do so more and more.”

4. Live holy...more and more! “we ask you and urge you...to do this more and more.”

Coming Next:

January 24, 2016

“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: He is Coming!”

1 Thessalonians Chapters 4:12-5:11

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16