



1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Lesson 6

In these next four verses of 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul moves from commanding the believers in Thessalonica to abstain from sexual immorality and to aspire to walking properly. May you be challenged to increase more and more in all that God has for you.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
Key Words: *God, love, urge, and work*
3. The use of the contrasting word *but* is used two times in 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. What do these verses say about love?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9

1. Paul told the believers in Thessalonica that he did not need to write to them *concerning brotherly love*. Why?

2. Using the following Scriptures from Proverbs, record what God has *taught* about *loving one another*.

Proverbs 10:12

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:17

- a. If your only teaching about *love* was from these verses, how would you describe *love*?

3. Record Jesus' words about *loving others* from John 13:34.

- a. List a few ways that Jesus loved/loves.

4. Read the story of the good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37 and describe what *loving others* looked like.

- a. What might be an example of this story in modern-day context?

5. Using 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, describe *love*.

- a. Read the previous verses (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Why does it *profit nothing* to do good things without *love*?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:10

1. These new believers had not only been *taught by God to love one another*. What does verse 10 reveal about them?
 - a. Record the importance of *doing* from James 1:22.
 - 1.) In what ways does failing to apply what we have heard lead to *deception*?
2. Paul boasted of the churches in Macedonia (which would include the church of Thessalonica) to the church in Corinth. What did the Macedonian churches do that expressed *love*? See 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.
 - a. Continue reading 2 Corinthians 8. Observe the example set by Jesus in verse 9. What did He do that expressed *love*?
3. Record the strong words of 1 John 3:10.
 - a. Why is *love* in action evidence of being a child of God?
4. Although the believers in Thessalonica were known for their *love*, what did Paul *urge* them to do?
 - a. If you were told to *increase more and more* in something you were already doing, what actions might you take?

5. Read Philippians 1:9. What two words does Paul add to describe the way we are to *love*?
 - a. If you were asked, what does it mean to *love in knowledge and discernment*, what would you say?
 - b. Why is it important that we *love in knowledge and discernment*?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11

1. List the three instructions given in this verse.
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word *aspire*.
2. In your own words, explain what it means to:
 - a. *lead a quiet life*
 - 1.) What do these verses add to your understanding?

Ecclesiastes 4:6

1 Peter 3:4
 - b. *mind your own business*
 - 1.) Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians reveals that some were walking contrary to this. What did he write in 2 Thessalonians 3:11?
 - a.) What is a *busybody*?

c. *work with your own hands*

1.) What do these verses add to your understanding?

Proverbs 21:25,26

1 Corinthians 4:12

Ephesians 4:28

3. Summarize a life that *aspires to lead a quiet life, minds her own business, and works with her own hands*.

a. Describe a life that is contrary to these attributes.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:12

1. The first phrase of 1 Thessalonians 4:12 can be a result of walking in the instructions of 1 Thessalonians 4:9 and 11 or it can be another instruction. Why can *walking properly toward those who are outside* be a result of following Paul's instructions?

2. What is the importance of *walking properly* as stated by Peter in 1 Peter 2:12?

a. Why is our conduct so important?

3. Using the last phrase of 1 Thessalonians 4:12, describe the result of *walking properly* toward both believers and unbelievers.

a. How does walking as God has called us to walk result in a Christian life that is drawing closer to God's intentions?

b. What have you discovered to be the benefits of living as God would have you live?

1.) In what ways have you discovered not being a *doer of the word* to cause you to feel a *lack* in your life?

REVIEW:

1. In what ways did the verses about *loving others* challenge you?

2. What are some areas in your life that you are presently being *taught by God*?

3. What challenged you most in this lesson? What are you going to *do* about it?

... the greatest of these is love.
-1 Corinthians 13:13

Observation Worksheet

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

⁹ But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.