

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 March.....	1Thessalonians 1:1-10.....	Commended
2) 13 March.....	1Thessalonians 2:1-12.....	Shared
3) 20 March.....	1Thessalonians 2:13-20.....	Response Required
4) 27 March.....	1Thessalonians 3:1-13.....	Encouraged
5) 03 April.....	1Thessalonians 4:1-12.....	Demonstrated
6) 10 April.....	1Thessalonians 4:13-18.....	Promised
7) 17 April.....	Matthew 28.....	Risen
8) 24 April.....	1Thessalonians 5:1-11.....	Returning
9) 01 May.....	1Thessalonians 5:12-28.....	Living
10) 08 May.....	2Thessalonians 1:1-12.....	Enduring
11) 15 May.....	2Thessalonians 2:1-12.....	Observing
12) 22 May.....	2Thessalonians 2:13-17.....	Praying
13) 29 May.....	2Thessalonians 3:1-18.....	Waiting

INTRODUCTION

- Warnings against sexual impurity; the call for increasing love for the brethren; and we should seek to lead a quiet life – all while considering what to believe about the end times.

Passage	Comments
1Thes 4:1-2	<p>Principle of Pleasing God → OBEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. And we are to excel at obeying God's mandates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do we speak kindly or harshly to others? Are we faithful to our marriage in thoughts and deeds? Are we good stewards with what God has given to us? ♦ Do we obey the speed limit and other good Govt mandates (e.g., pay taxes, wear clothes in public, get vaccinated) or do we ignore, or waffle, or partially obey the commands we don't like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall we are to submit ourselves "for the Lord's sake" to "every human institution" and be subject to "governing authorities" – unless they violate God's laws... Acts 5:29; Rom 13:1-4; 1Pet 1:15-16 ♦ Consider this: Partial and/or delayed obedience is disobedience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall Moses' delayed obedience, which almost cost him his life..... Exod 4:24-26 • Recall Saul partially obeyed God's commands and he lost his kingdom..... 1Sam 15:12-23 ♦ How do we excel at obeying?..... Ps 119:60 • v2. No excuse for disobedience since we KNOW better <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In the OT, there were offerings for sins of ignorance (yet, there is no excuse for any sin) Lev 5:14-19 ♦ But there was only the death penalty for willful sins. Offenders weren't even given the opportunity to repent and ask to be forgiven..... Num 15:30-35 ♦ And willful ignorance is also deadly..... 2Peter 3
4:3-8	<p>Principle of Sexual Purity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture spends a lot of time discussing sexual issues from marriage, divorce, adultery, remarriage, polygamy, incest, to homosexuality and bestiality • 6 verses on sexual purity out of 85 verses in 1Thessalonians constitute 7%. That's a good bit of time spent on 1 topic, so it must be IMPORTANT to God and IMPORTANT for us to pay attention to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In contrast, financial verses constitute a little over 13% (2,350 verses out of 31,101) ♦ Love is the only topic that exceeds finances in importance • The culture the Thessalonians lived in was in all probability very similar to ours, if not worse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Instead of being bombarded with sexual content on TVs and computers, they could go down to the neighborhood temple complex for a "good time"

Passage	Comments
	<p>TIMELESS COMMANDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Abstain from sexual immorality. HOW? • v4. Control your body; live in holiness & honor. HOW? • v5. Avoid lustful passion. HOW? Consider the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Control where your eyes roam..... Job 31:1 <input type="checkbox"/> Stop bad habits, start good habits Eph 4:27-32 <input type="checkbox"/> Think on whatsoever is pure Phil 4:8 • v6a. Defraud not your brother. HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ IOW, don't flirt and mess around with your in-laws • Know This: Christianity is not for wimps. It is a disciplined lifestyle with many Do's & Don'ts; – and we need the Holy Spirit to help us be good at it <p>MOTIVATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6b. God is an avenger of all these offenses (we can expect to be disciplined if we are a child of God) • v7. God calls us to sanctification, so He gives us the ability to stay sin-free – as we obey His word • v8. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him
4:9-10	<p>Principle of Brotherly Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. God teaches us to love (agape) one another HOW? • v10. Seek to excel in showing love to others.....HOW? <p>1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____</p>
4:11-12	<p>Principle of a Sound Lifestyle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v11. Seek to lead a quiet life.....HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Seek to mind your own business (how does this jive with us being our brother's keeper?) ♦ Seek to work with your own hands • v12. WHY DO ALL THIS (i.e., be obedient, be sexually pure, show love to others, and to work hard)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ To have a powerful testimony before others; and ♦ Be self-sufficient – able to support yourself & others

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Don't trifle with God. Take His word and His holiness seriously
- Remember: It cost God His Son to enable us to be forgiven of our unintentional and intentional sins against Him
- So, obey His commands/principles/laws, including good Govt rulings and mandates speedily
- If Christians aren't a good example of keeping God's laws and the good laws of the land, how can we expect others to do so?

NEXT WEEK: 1Thes 4:13-18. How should we prepare for the Rapture? And is it imminent? One thing for sure – Every day brings us one day closer to seeing the Lord face to face.

