

WHAT IT MEANS TO PLEASE GOD

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

7/23/17

I. Introduction: What Does it Mean to Please God?

- A. Background: 1 Thessalonians is a book of encouragement and exhortation.
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 tells us how we can know and do God's will.

II. Exposition -- 3 Practical Attributes that Please God:

- A. Holiness (4:3-8): The life that pleases God begins with holiness.
 - 1. A state of being set apart (i.e., separated; removed) from sin
 - 2. A process of becoming more like the Holy One (God)
 - 3. How? Holiness requires . . .
 - 4. Control over our bodies (4:4):
 - 5. *Not . . . like the heathen* (4:5): Why should we do this? Three reasons:
 - 6. (4:6) — It leads to punishment.
 - 7. (4:7) — It ignores God's will.
 - 8. (4:8) — It shows contempt for God Himself.
- B. Love (4:9-10): This is the central teaching of a life that pleases God.
- C. Work (4:11-12): This is the result of a life that is holy and loves others; it is a reflection of God Himself. The presence of these three characteristics prevent the Christian from being meddlesome. Meddlers are . . .
 - 1. (Proverbs 25:17) — Distracted in their own walk with God, and they are distracting and bothersome to others.
 - 2. (1 Thessalonians 2:9) — Burdensome to others.
 - 3. (1 Thessalonians 4:12) — Dependent on others.

III. Applications

- A. Three requirements are necessary to please God: holiness, love and work.
- B. Holiness in the heart requires purity in the body. It begins with keeping the body under the control and authority of Jesus Christ.
- C. To be holy, you must know God and you must practice abstinence from immorality, which is a manifestation of love for others.
- D. Lack of control, failure to love, and ignorance of God's will are tantamount to contempt for God.
- E. Work is a manifestation of our love for others.