

**SERIES TITLE:** ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN

**SESSION FOUR:** IMPACTS SEX AND WORK

**TEXT:** 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

**INTRODUCTION.** The church in Thessalonica was started by the Apostle Paul. Although many believed (Acts 17) Paul had to run for his life from an angry mob. Concerned about the young church, Paul sent Timothy to find out. Timothy reported that the church was doing well, but was under a lot of pressure. There were some moral problems, and confusion about the return of Christ. So Paul wrote this first letter of encouragement and instruction. Repeatedly he tells them how to live in light of the coming Christ.

**DISCUSSION.**

If you were expecting house guests, what would you do? Why? When?

**EXAMINATION.**

vv.1-2 How do Christians please God?

vv.3-8 What does this passage teach us about sexual immorality?

What does this say to someone who has already made sexual mistakes?

vv.9-12 There is no break between v.10 and v.11. It is one sentence that explains how to love each other more. How can the behaviors of vv.11-12 be expressions of love?

Three reasons to work: work expresses love to others; work wins respect from non-Christians; work keeps us from dependency. Which of these is most challenging? Why?

**APPLICATION.**

- How does our sexual behavior reflect our view of God?
- How does our work ethic reflect our view of God?
- Evaluate this definition of work: "Work brings order out of chaos for the good of others." In what ways does this coincide or conflict with the world's definition of work?
- Read Jesus' parable in Luke 12:42-48. How does it apply to this passage?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?