**Thompson Road Baptist Church**

September 25, 2016

The Worthy Life: 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12

1. Introduction
   1. n/a
   2. Proposition: As Christians, we must seek to please God and love one another
2. As Christians, we must seek to please God… (vv.1-8)
   1. This is an instruction for all believers—both those who aren’t already doing it and those who are (v.1)
      1. No believer ever gets past the need to be encouraged in holiness; cf. Hebrews 10.24-25, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
   2. This is primarily achieved by growing in sanctification (vv.2-8)
      1. Sanctification is not required for salvation, but is in God’s will for his children (v.3a)
         1. Moreover, without sanctification it would be difficult to have assurance that we truly have been saved; cf. 2 Peter 1.5-10, “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.”
      2. Of chief concern for Paul in Thessalonica is sexual impurity (vv.3b-7)
         1. Sexual purity is defined here by a commitment to one’s spouse alone, with respect and honor, and not selfish lust
      3. In general, our sanctification is about obedience to God’s commandments (v.8)
         1. Recall the Great Commission cf. Matthew 28.19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Also, John 14.15, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
3. … and love one another (vv.9-12)
   1. Just as loving God is expected and encouraged for all believers, so is loving others (vv.9-10); see “more and more”, cf. John 13.34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
      1. This goes beyond just loving others, but also encompasses how we live together in community
         1. Quiet (i.e. Don’t desire to be made much of)
            1. In today’s world, the desire for fame leads so many people’s actions. This is the opposite of what living like Christ looks like; cf. Mark 10.45, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
         2. Not Meddlesome
            1. Few things are more detrimental to community than gossip and slander; cf. 1 Peter 4.14-15, “If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.” Ephesians 4.29, “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”
         3. Hard working
            1. Christians should know the value of earning their keep honestly. It is both a blessing to them and their family, as well as to others; cf. Ephesians 4.28, “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”
   2. Our sanctification sees us walking as we ought before God; brotherly love has us walking properly before others
      1. This parallels the first and second great commandments; cf. Matthew 22.37-40, “And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”
4. Conclusion
   1. n/a