

# **OBEDIENCE AND THE ASSURANCE THAT MATTERS**

## **1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12**



**WE ARE ASSURED OF GOD'S LOVE BY OUR FAITH IN CHRIST WHO  
DIED FOR US. WE ARE ASSURED OF GOD'S APPROVAL BY HIS  
SPIRIT & OUR EXPERIENCE AS WE OBEY HIS GOOD INSTRUCTIONS.**

**THE URGENT APPEAL: *LIVE (WALK) IN AN UPWARD  
TRAJECTORY ("MORE & MORE") OF PLEASING GOD.***

**WHICH MEANS...**

- A. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN FROM GOD THROUGH PAUL  
& THROUGH JESUS (WE HAVE DIVINE GUIDANCE)**
- B. OBEYING/PROVING/SHOWING THE WILL OF GOD**
- C. PARTNERING IN THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION  
(BECOMING MORE & MORE HOLY)**

**WHICH MEANS...**

- ABSTAINING FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY**

**WHICH MEANS...**

- 1. CONTROLLING YOUR OWN BODY... ACCORDING TO TWO  
PRINCIPLES:
  - A. HOLINESS (SET APART, TRANSCENDENTLY PRECIOUS,  
PURE, SPECIAL)**
  - B. HONOR (TREAT AS HOLY & VALUED RATHER THAN  
COMMON & DISPOSABLE)****
- 2. NOT GIVING CONTROL TO EXTERNAL & UNGODLY  
FORCES (THE PASSION OF LUST...)**
- 3. NOT WRONGING OTHER BY USING THEM FOR  
SUCH UNHOLY & DISHONORABLE PURPOSES**

**BECAUSE...**

- 1. THE LORD IS AN AVENGER (WHAT GOD WILLS, HE  
ENFORCES)**
- 2. GOD CALLS US TO HOLINESS & NOT IMPURITY**
- 3. DISREGARDING THESE THINGS DOESN'T MEAN REJECTING  
PARTICULAR SET OF MAN-MADE VALUE & RULES BUT  
DISREGARDING GOD HIMSELF!**
- 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES & SPEAKS WITHIN US**

**D. LOVING OTHERS**

**WHICH MEANS...**

- 1. LIVING QUIETLY (NOT INSISTING ON "LIVING LARGE")**
- 2. MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS, TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF**

**WHICH MEANS...**

- A. OFFERING POSITIVE WITNESS TO UNBELIEVERS**
- B. NOT BEING AN UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON OTHERS**