

- **Overview of 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

- Paul expresses to the Thessalonians that the best possible life they can have is to live to please God.
 - He is so serious about this that he says we “urge” (4:1) you to do so.
 - “Urge” here is a combination of two Greek verbs that mean: Request and Exhort. Paul is saying, I am asking you to do this...I am appealing to you to do this.
- God’s plan for our lives means to “be holy” (4:3). Paul repeats this same phrase in 4:7: God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.
 - Another word for “holy” is the word “sanctified.” It literally means to be “set apart” and involves the process of becoming more and more like God with our emotions, with our words, with our desires, and with our bodies.
 - The good news is this process is a partnership. God is committed to doing anything and everything to achieve these results in our lives. This means we must also play our part and follow God’s ways, too.
- When Paul says “love people even more” (4:10) he means that we can never love people enough. When you think you can’t love anymore, do it anyways! For our love for others is a direct reflection of God’s love for us.
- Paul says when we approach our job as worship and a way to honor Jesus, people will notice the difference (4:12). While others may take short cuts or be a pain in their boss’ side, our integrity, truthfulness, hard work, and excellence will stick out and point the One we are truly working for.