

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of spiritual strengths you as an individual and/or we as a church possess where God may be calling us to 'excel still more'?
2. How does our behavior affect our witness? What does it say about Who God is and what He has done, such as when we do or don't love others well?
3. Give some examples of where behavior changed because theology changed (the theological change may have prompted an attitude change before you saw the behavioral change).
4. What are some areas of theology that you wish you understood better? How could you address them?



**Series: DISCIPLESHIP—I Thessalonians**

**Lesson: Part 7 – 'Excel Still More' in Your Love & Witness**

**Passage: 1 Thess. 4:9–12**

#### 1 Thessalonians:

- **Background:** Paul & Co. plant Thessalonian church but are quickly driven out (Acts 17)
- **Chapters 1–3:** Reassuring the Thessalonians
- **Chapters 4–5:** The discipleship the Thessalonians still needed
- **The Need to 'Excel Still More' in \_\_\_\_\_ (vv9–10)**
  - They're not just \_\_\_\_\_ the Thessalonians by praising their love (1:7–8; 3:6, 12)
  - $\phi\lambda\alpha\delta\epsilon\lambda\phi\acute{\iota}\alpha$  [*philadēphía*] –
  - So why exhort them to do better? (4:1)

**Blanks:** Love, flattering, Witness, Theology, eschatology, us, ambassadors, theology, separate, Knowing God

• **How Our Conduct Affects Our \_\_\_\_\_** (w11-12)

○ φιλανθρωπία [*philōtīmēōnai*] (Rom. 15:20; 2 Cor. 5:9) –

○ What three things?

1. 'To lead a quiet life' –

2. 'Attend your own business' –

3. 'Work with your hands' –

○ What we see in 2 Thess. 3:6-13

○ *SO THAT...*

(for 'properly,' cf. Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 14:40)

• **The Connection (& Cause): Bad \_\_\_\_\_**

○ Similar pattern to 4:1-8

○ Problems they had with \_\_\_\_\_ (end times):  
1:10; 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:1-2

○ The consequences of this confusion

**What do we do with this text?**

1. Live and love well because our lives are not about \_\_\_\_\_.

a. We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ!  
(2 Cor. 5:20)

b. We have to live lives for Christ (Rom. 6)

c. How to walk in a lost world as a witness (1 Pet. 2:13-17)

2. Embrace \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Theology and practice are NOT \_\_\_\_\_ concepts!

b. Knowing just the basic concepts isn't enough to please God  
(Acts 18:24-28)

c. Discipleship can't end with the basics of the Gospel

d. \_\_\_\_\_ is the reward of  
Christianity