

**God Called Us to Holiness**

**050501-2**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

We are going to be studying **1 Thessalonians, chapter 4**. We are beginning with **verse 5**, where it says —

**5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, - sensuality - even as the Gentiles which know not God; - the Gentiles were all the pagan people who were outside of a living knowledge of God.** We read we are not to live in the lust of sensuality as those who do not know the Lord Jesus. Now this is quite strong language for today, because we are surrounded — we are bombarded — with it. It's everywhere!

**3 . . . abstain from sexual immorality.** If we could just grasp that little thought, that little phrase, of what God is saying in what we are not to do, we would see that that entails, first of all, that we have to have a clean cut with sexual immorality. When we are willing for this, we won't see the things that we have been seeing. We won't tolerate the things that we have been hearing. We will somehow sense there has been a radical operation within us.

**6 That no man go beyond. . . - that means to transgress, over-reach , to go beyond bonds and bounds; to go beyond anything that is not legitimate before a holy God; to have an advantage and to excel and transitively to take advantage of another.**

*That is what **going beyond** is. In other words, to **go beyond** means attention without intention: flirtation, foolish jesting, dressing to incite and stimulate the appetite of a person of the opposite sex.*

**6** ***That no man go beyond and defraud** - exciting appetites that you cannot legally satisfy before a holy God. **Uncleanness** is referred to as sexual sin in the Bible; it is an offense against holiness and honor; it is an act of fraud against another in taking what is rightfully theirs. To **defraud** in this manner just means to defraud a person in the same way you would in business.*

**6** ***That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any manner: because the Lord is the avenger** - notice that word - **of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified** - as we have already warned you solemnly and told you plainly. That includes pre-marital fornication or promiscuity, and impure relations after marriage. **To go beyond and defraud, because the Lord is the avenger** in respect to all these things even **as we told you before and fully testified. The Lord is the avenger**, that is, *the One who satisfies justice by punishing the wrong-doer.* Oh, how many people have had mental breakdowns, and it all has to do with what they have been trying to hide that which is going on in their subconscious.*

**7** ***For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.** We are **called . . . unto holiness.** All sins of uncleanness contaminate the vessel, our vessel, the believer's vessel, because*

this vessel is a temple of the Holy Spirit. A Christian life is a called-out life by God. This is not my initiative but His, as we are created unto good works. We are created to **walk in newness of life**. There is supposed to be a radical difference.

In **Romans 6:4**, we read -

**4** **Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should *walk in newness of life*.**

**5** **For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.**

**6** **Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

**7** **For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

God in forgiving and rescuing from the wrath to come through the precious Lord Jesus when He died and rose again from the dead, gave us new life, new life in Christ — not the old life patched up; a new life. A new life by the Holy Spirit by the Word of God produces fruits of righteousness by Him to God's glory.

In **Romans 6:11**, we read-

**11** **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**1 Thessalonians 4** - These verses we are contemplating :

**7** **For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. *Listen to this* -**

**8**        **He therefore that despiseth. . . - who says, “No, I don’t like this message! I don’t like it! It’s too hard! “- despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit.**

His Holy Spirit is speaking to you at this moment. Are you willing to say, *Lord Jesus, it is Your cleanliness alone I stand for, Your power.*

*In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*