

“A Good Goal for All of Us”
1 Thessalonians 4:11 (page 1050)
Tuesday Bible Lunch
March 5, 2024

Introduction: Do you ever think about what you would like to be doing when Jesus returns? Maybe reading your Bible, praying, being at church, helping someone, etc.

- You may think more about what you do not want to be doing when Jesus returns!
- You may think more about where you do not want to be when Jesus comes!
- Hopefully, you think more about what kind of life you will be living when Jesus returns.

T.S. Today, we look at one Bible verse containing twenty-five words that tells us the best way to be living when Jesus returns. How we are living is what really matters. You could be at church on Sunday morning when Jesus comes and still not be living right the rest of the week!

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:11

Background: When Paul and Silas left Phillipi, they travelled to Thessalonica where Paul went to a Jewish synagogue for three Sabbaths and preached the gospel. And many believed. It caused such an uproar that for their own safety, they had to leave Thessalonica during the night (Acts 17).

- Paul and Silas then went to Amphipolis and Apollonia, Berea, Athens, and from Athens to Corinth where Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians.
- Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to see how the church was doing (1 Thess. 3:1-2) and Timothy returned with a good report (1 Thess. 3:6).
- As you read the letter Paul wrote it is obvious that Timothy told Paul that the new believers in Thessalonica had made end times their focus. In both 1 and 2

Thessalonians, Paul has more to say about end times than any of his other letters.

Application: Many Christians make end times or prophecy or gifts of the Spirit or some other “pet-doctrine” their focus rather than how they live their Christian life.

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:11

In this one verse, we see three things to help us live lives pleasing to God.

1. Aspire to live a quiet life.

- “Aspire” is literally “make it your goal.”
- Aspiring for anything requires effort.
- To live a quiet life involves balance and calm in the midst of difficulty.

Application: This is something you must work at. It is easy to live with balance and calm when things are good. When you are going through something difficult, It involves believing that God is in control and trusting Him even when we do not understand.

2. Aspire to mind your own business.

- Handling our own business and responsibilities leaves little time to be meddlesome in other people’s business.
- Idle people spend their time with the affairs of other people.
- The Bible calls these people “busybodies” (2 Thess. 3:11).

3. To work with your own hands.

- Greek culture looked down on manual labor.
- God created man to work before the fall of man (Genesis 2:15).
- “God took man and put him the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it (Genesis 2:15).
- Work is not a curse!

Illustration: The saying, “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop” is not found verbatim in the Bible.

Application: If a person has nothing to do the devil will find things to occupy their time.

Conclusion: Your life is your greatest witness to those who know you and deal with you.

The best example I know of a man who lived his life this way was Dottie’s father. He had an 8th grade education, but he had a PhD. In common sense and Christian integrity. He owned a dry-cleaning plant, worked very hard, and was very successful in his work.

He gave me his daughter and gave me a great example to follow. On our wedding day, he gave great speech. In fact, it was the only speech he ever gave me. I picked him up and the two of drove to church. Before we got out of the car, he said, “If I can ever help you, let me know, but I will never interfere. He never did. His wife did!

I never knew a man who lived 1 Thessalonians 4:11.