

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## I THESSALONIANS 4

### *I Thessalonians 4*

"Finally," Paul says this word and then writes almost as much as he has up to this point! As I said in the "On the Way..." Podcast for this chapter: it is like a pastor saying, "Finally," and then preaching for another fifteen minutes. I can see some of you nodding your heads in agreement! He "**urges**" them and "**exhorts**" them to walk with God and live a life pleasing to Him.

The words are different words. The word **exhort** is the normal word for calling someone to stand with you or stand by your side, Greek, **parakalēō**. While the word **urge** comes from **erōtaō** and has to do with someone asking someone else something or requesting an action *based on a particular standing or authority relationship with that person*. Paul is saying, I am your father in the faith, and I am now speaking to you as your spiritual father. His desire is for the Thessalonians to please God.

In verse three, the apostle instructs them on what **the will of God** is for each one of them. The subject is **sanctification**. The word **sanctification** has the same root as the word **holy**, **ἁγιασμός**, **hagiasmos**, pronounced (hag-ee-as-mos'). Sanctification is the *setting apart, separating oneself from something to something else*. In a nutshell, Sanctification is the act whereby God sets apart the believer from the world

and consecrates them to Himself. This is spoken of in the Scriptures as having been accomplished the moment we are saved, past tense, "ed" on the end of our English word. But the Scriptures also speak of this setting apart, **sanctification** as an ongoing process, as well as something that will one day be perfected and brought to completion, synonymously used with the term **glorification**. So, sanctification has a past, present, and future application. Paul is speaking in the present verses of present or progressive sanctification. All of us have a long way to go, and in this life, no one has arrived!

Paul says the will of God for our lives is to live a godly, morally clean, and above-reproach life. That means we handle sexual issues without any equivocation or vacillation. We are to not live like the rest of the world in this manner. We are to realize that God has called us to "cathartic" or clean living. We are by God's Spirit to walk in the Word and not allow lusts and our passions to control us. This is God's will for every child of God. I would highly encourage you to listen to today's podcast as I go into greater depth on what sexual immorality is and is not.

### **Prayer and Action Steps**

*Father in heaven, please forgive me when I have lived in a way that was outside and beyond Your will for my life. Please give me the desire to obey You at every level of my being. Please help me to develop habits that are morally clean and pleasing to You. Amen*