

# 1 THESSALONIANS 4

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PAUL AND HIS CO-WORKERS URGE THE THESSALONIAN  
DISCIPLES TO HEED WHAT THEY ENJOINED IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE LORD JESUS

1 So then, as for the<sup>1</sup> rest, brothers, we are asking and exhorting you in connection with YaHWeH<sup>2</sup> – namely, Jesus,<sup>3</sup> just as you received from us how it is necessary that you walk and please God<sup>4</sup> – that you might be abounding more and more.

2 For, you know what injunctions we gave to you by the mouth of the Lord Jesus.

3 For, this is the Will of God – the Sanctification of you<sup>5</sup> –

PAUL GIVES AN PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF SANCTIFICATION  
for example,

- that you keep away from the Unchastity,
- 4 that each of you get the Vessel that is his own in connection with holiness<sup>6</sup> and honor, 5 not in connection with an emotion of sexual desire, as the Ethnicities – *that is*, the ones which did not lastingly know the God – *got their vessels*,
- 6 that a man not be overstepping and gaining an advantage over the Brother that is his in connection with the matter;

for the reason that the<sup>7</sup> Lord *is* an avenger on account of all of these *things*, even as we set *this* before you previously and we called God and men to bear witness to it.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF REJECTING SANCTIFICATION

7 For, the God did not call us for uncleanness. Rather, *He called us to be* in the inward state of sanctification<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 50% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do include the definite article 'the' here.

<sup>2</sup> 'YaHWeH' – a transliteration of the Hebrew word יהוה. The New Testament writers often use the unarticulated Greek word for 'Lord' (here Κυριω) to translate this divine name, especially when quoting Old Testament passages.

<sup>3</sup> 94% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include 'so that' here.

<sup>4</sup> 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do include the word 'just as you are also walking' here.

<sup>5</sup> 'the sanctification of you' – Although not obvious in English the word 'sanctification' is a member of the 'holy' word family. So, this phrase means 'the setting of you apart for God and His purposes.'

<sup>6</sup> 'holiness' – more clearly a member of the 'holy' word family, meaning 'the condition of being set apart for God and His purposes.'

8 For that very reason, the one who is rejecting sanctification is not rejecting a person. Rather, he is *rejecting* the God – *namely*, the One Who also<sup>9</sup> gave<sup>10</sup> the Spirit *Who is His* – *that is*, the Holy One – to us!

CONCERNING THE BROTHERLY LOVE

OF THE THESSALONIAN DISCIPLES

9 Now, concerning the Brotherly Love, you do not have need *that we* write to you. For, you<sup>11</sup>, *for your parts*, are God-taught to the *end that you* are the one loving another. 10 For, indeed, you are doing the same toward all the Brothers – *namely, the Brothers in the whole of the Macedonian province*.

A REMINDER OF ORDERS THAT PAUL AND HIS CO-WORKERS  
HAD PASSED ON TO THE THESSALONIAN DISCIPLES

Now, we counsel you, Brothers,

- to be bounding still more, 11 and
- to be striving eagerly to be calm, and
- to be attending to your own *things*, and
- to be working with the hands *that are* your own, just as we passed on orders to you, 12 in order that you might be walking elegantly in relation to the *ones* outside and no one might be having a need.

CONCERNING THOSE

WHO HAVE LASTINGLY FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

13 Now, we do NOT want you to be ignorant, Brothers, concerning the ones who have been lastingly put to asleep<sup>12</sup>, lest you might grieve just as also the rest – *namely, the ones* not having hope.

14 For, if we keep on believing that Jesus died and arose, in this manner also by agency of Jesus the God shall lead the ones who have fallen asleep together with Him.

15 For, this we say to you in connection with a word from YaHWeH<sup>13</sup>, that we, *for our parts*, the ones who

<sup>7</sup> 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do include the definite article 'the' here.

<sup>8</sup> 'sanctification' – see footnote 1.

<sup>9</sup> 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word translated as 'also' here.

<sup>10</sup> 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'gave' (an aorist participle) here instead of 'is giving' (a present participle).

<sup>11</sup> 30% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the pronoun 'you' here. Nonetheless, the English subject 'you' is implied in the Greek verb.

<sup>12</sup> 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'ones who have been lastingly put to asleep' (an perfect, passive participle) here instead of 'ones who are being put to sleep' (a present, passive participle).

<sup>13</sup> 'YaHWeH' – The Greek has the word 'Lord' (Κυριου) without a definite article here. Paul and other New Testament writers often

are living – *namely*, the ones who are surviving until the Arrival of the Lord – shall by no means precede the ones who have fallen asleep.

16 Because, the Lord Himself

- with a word of command,
- with a voice of an archangel, and
- with a trumpet of God,

shall descend from heaven.

And the dead *ones* in connection with an anointed *One* shall arise first.

17 Afterwards we, *for our parts – that is*,

- the ones who are living,
  - the ones who are remaining around,
- at once shall be snatched away in clouds so as to go out to meet the Lord *with honor* in open air.

And, in this way always we shall be together with YaHWeH<sup>14</sup>.

18 THEREFORE, encourage one another in connection with the Words – *namely*, THESE!

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use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old Testament where the name YaHWeH appears.

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