



Topeka Bible Church
Waiting for Something to Happen: The Thessalonian Letters
#5: While Waiting ... Get Moving!
Community Group Study Questions
1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 and selected passages

1. Do you typically live your life pleasing God or pleasing yourself (*1 Thessalonians 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:9*)? Why is it so difficult to please God over ourselves? How can pleasing ourselves be dangerous (*2 Timothy 3:2-5*)?

2. Did Jesus live to please God, the Father (*John 8:29; Luke 22:41-42*)? How does His life serve as an example for us to follow (*1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21*)? What kind of attitude must we have in order to follow His example (*Philippians 2:3-7; Ephesians 4:2*)?

3. What sort of instructions did the Thessalonians receive from Paul, Silas, and Timothy (*1 Thessalonians 4:1; Ephesians 4:1*)? How did their instructions relate to pleasing God (*2 Thessalonians 2:15-17; cf. 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6*)?

4. Who serves as the foundation for these instructions (*1 Thessalonians 4:2*)? What role does our devotion to Jesus Christ play in our ability to please God (*John 14:21; 15:10; cf. Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4*)?

5. Who do you have in your life that encourages you to please God and live for Him rather than for yourself? Why do we need this kind of encouragement (Proverbs 27:17)? How often do we need it (*Hebrews 10:23-25*)?

6. Think back to when you first became a Christian. What motivated you to please and serve the Lord? How can you rekindle that passion (cf. *1 Timothy 1:6-7*)? What role does confession of sin play in this "rekindling" (*1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:21-22; 12:1-2; Ephesians 3:12*)?

7. Think about the factors that detract from pleasing God and lead you to please yourself. Take some time to confess areas of sin or struggle and ask God to strengthen you to please Him above all others ... including yourself (*Matthew 22:37-38*)!

Memory Verse:

"Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more."

(1 Thessalonians 4:1, NASB)