

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

STUDY NOTES

I THESSALONIANS 4:7-8

BIBLE TEACHER: CLIFTON JONES

GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS HOLY SPIRIT THAT WE MIGHT BE HOLY

1Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. **1Th 4:8** He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul and Peter are in full agreement on what they are teaching us

Both tell us that we have a “**holy**” calling, **1Pe 1:15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (Which is your daily lifestyle)

God the Father who has called us is “**holy**,” a truth that the American church must learn and live

The background of Isaiah 6 is, the nation of Israel was in a turmoil, there was trouble in the land

If God’s people did not arise and do something the judgment of God was going to fall upon them

God used Isaiah to speak to Israel, but first God spoke to Isaiah through a vision of the Lord,

Isa 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Isaiah saw the heavenly throne, God was upon the throne, and angels surrounded the throne

Isaiah saw and heard those heavenly servants of God, **Isa 6:2** Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

There was a deep reverence for God, they each one covered their face

Each one stands in a state of humility before God, they cover their feet

We find them committed and dedicated to God, ready to fly at His command

We must hear what they have-to say about the One that they are ready to serve

They were in full agreement and in one accord as they cry out unto one another, **Isa 6:3**

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Christians of today must see and know the same truth, we must all agree that our God is “**Holy**”

It is time for the church in America to shout out to the world, “**Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord**”

Go to the book of Revelation, the book of finality, the book that reveals the conclusion

And the conclusion remains the same, God is still on the throne and God is still “**Holy**”

God spoke to John through a revelation of the Lord, **Rev 4:2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

And John saw heavenly creatures gathered around the throne of God, listen to their cry, **Rev 4:8**

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God has always been holy, God will always be holy, today we must preach “**our God is Holy**”

Just as Peter preached in his day, **1Pe 1:16** Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

From Genesis to Revelation, it stands written, “**God is holy**,” which is an eternal record

A truth that has not been erased, it will never be erased, there is no change or nothing new

Man can change the laws of the land, but man cannot change the truth of the “Word of God”

God has not changed His mind about how Christians are to live their daily life

God our Father who has called us is “**Holy**,” Jesus who died on the cross for us is “**Holy**”

The Spirit who indwells us is “**Holy**,” the Word of God that teaches us is “**Holy**”

What greater motive do we need? Our daily desire should be nothing less than to live “**Holy**”

WE HAVE A HOLY CALLING

1Th 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

The word “**for**” takes us back to the previous verses explaining God’s will for our life

And the warning that Christians will face God's chastisement for disobeying God's will Paul further explains the purpose of God's will for the life of a Christian, the way we should live Christians are not to transgress others in any way, especially through sexual immorality Christians are **not** to live **holy** because of a fear of being judged by God if we don't We should be motivated to live **holy** because of our "**calling**" from God by His Amazing Grace God called us through His grace unto salvation, **Gal 1:6** I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

There is no other gospel unto salvation according to Galatians 1:6-10 (But many false doctrines) Once we are saved God calls us into His fellowship, **1Co 1:9** God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. (A personal relationship with Christ) Through that fellowship God calls us to walk with Him in His kingdom, **1Th 2:12** That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. (That you would live holy)

Paul said God has "**not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness**" Which states a strong "absolutely not," in no way has God called us to a life of "**uncleanness**" The word "**uncleanness**" means impurity in any form, identifying all of which is morally impure It identifies with perverted thinking, vulgar speaking, ungodly acts, and lustful sinful living

The subject that Paul has in mind in 1 Thessalonians 4 is "**fornication**" "**Uncleanness**" is a word that is often associated with "**fornication**" in scripture Paul said that Christians should have already repented of such sins, **2Co 12:21** And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the **uncleanness** and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed. (Christians are to live according to a new life, a new mind, a new heart and will) Uncleanness is of the flesh and not the fruit of the Spirit, **Gal 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, **uncleanness**, lasciviousness, (Verses 19-21) Notice that the first four sins of the flesh that Paul names relate to sexual immorality For 3 verses Paul identifies works of the flesh before he speaks of spiritual fruit in verses 22-23 **All** of which should not be found in the life of a Christian, **Eph 5:3** But fornication, and all **uncleanness**, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; As far as sexual sins are concerned in the Christian life, they should be put to death, **Col 3:5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, **uncleanness**, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (A life in love with sin) Sexual sin leads to a life of greediness without conviction of sin, **Eph 4:19** Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all **uncleanness** with greediness. God has not called us to be involved in such "**uncleanness**," that is not the life God has for us Any and-all forms of sex sins violate the very purpose of God's **calling** for us Pornographic literature, T.V. sex scenes, or vulgar jokes are **not** Christian entertainment The church of today must learn that God has **not called** us to a life of impurity and immorality We are **not** saved so that we can continue to live in sin and say, God understands (Too often said) We are saved so that we can overcome sin and live a life of "**holiness**," which "God wills" Paul said God has called us "**unto holiness**," we must understand that God has made it possible "**Holiness**" is the same word that is translated "sanctification" in 1 Thessalonians 4:3 and 4 In our salvation, God "set us apart" from sin, He "set us apart" unto Himself for His service Our ministry is **not uncleanness**, we are saved and called to dedicate ourselves to a life of purity **Holiness** must be the pattern of our life, the desire of our life, the guide and rule of our decisions Before we read it, watch it, listen to it, we must ask, "Is it holy?" Is it okay with God if I do this? As soon as an unholy thought comes to our mind, confess it and claim the call of God's **holiness** Continually remind yourself, "I am holy," God has called me to serve "Him," I must live "**holy**" "**Holiness**" is my calling from God, a life of "**Holiness**" was given to me through salvation "**Holiness**" is God's eternal plan and will be fulfilled through our eternal salvation

God saved us so that He could call us to a life of holiness, **2Ti 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (God's purpose is eternal holiness)

Before creation God determined that His people would be **holy**, **Eph 1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Which John explains in **1Jn 4:19** We love him, because he first loved us.)

And God knew in the beginning the cost of our holiness, **1Pe 1:19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Only the precious blood of our "Holy Savior" could provide for us a life of "**Holiness**"

We must always remember why Jesus came to the earth as man, **Mat 1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

In-order to save us from our sins He must die on the cross, **1Pe 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

We are saved to live righteous, we must live "**holy**," our daily life must be lived "**holy**"

Jesus identified a holy and righteous life for us, **Joh 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

A holy life is a superabundant supply of daily life, more to life than you would ever expect

There is no greater life to live than a life of "**holiness**," it is life beyond measure

Which the world does not agree with because Satan, the liar, has told them different

According-to Satan the word "**ungodly**" describes the way to really live it up

But the abundant life is not a life of "**uncleanness**," it is not a life lived in sin

Should the Christian continue to live in sin? Paul had a question about that, **Rom 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Paul had a very quick answer to his question, **Rom 6:2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

When Satan comes to you with an ungodly temptation, you tell him, "**God forbid**"

You tell Satan, "I am holy, God has called me to a life of holiness, holiness is my life

Our "vocation" is our call to a life of "holiness," **Eph 4:1** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Realize that only by the grace of God can you say "No" to sin and "Yes" to righteousness,

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

"God's grace" teaches us that "in this present world" Christians must live holy, **Tit 2:12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; (Plan every step of your life with God, ask "What would Jesus do?")

There should not even be the appearance of evil in our life, **1Th 5:22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Remember that in 1 Thessalonians 4:6 Paul said that we now stand accountable to God

In verse 7, Paul says that God's will for us is **holiness**

Now in verse 8 Paul says, "Don't reject God"

1Th 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul begins this verse with a conclusion based upon what he has previously said

"**He therefore**" refers back to all that he has taught concerning the subject of sexual immorality

As Christians, we must give serious thought to what he has presented to us in 1 Thessalonians 4

The seriousness is emphasized by Paul's choice of the original word translated "**therefore**"

It is found only twice in the N.T., Paul is strongly directing our attention to the consequences

Because of what was previously presented we must seriously consider what is now presented

For sure do not "**despise**" what Paul has taught, which is happening too often today

"**Despise**" means, to reject or disregard, to set aside, to cast off, or ignore

It means to consider something as unimportant or meaningless, to regard it as not applying to me

Stating that it is of no significance to me personally, so you refuse to recognize it or obey it
 Despise means you are saying, what the Bible says about sexual immorality does not apply to me
 When you intentionally despise the Bible, you are not rejecting something that man has written
 Paul said you **“despiseth not man, but God,”** the Bible is God’s written Word to each of us
 Paul says **therefore** or consequently to reject his teaching was to reject God and not man
 The Bible is the “Written Word of God,” Jesus is the “Living Word of God”
 Christians are to be followers of Jesus, living according-to the teaching of God’s Word
 Christians cannot treat lightly any part of God’s Word, rejecting what you don’t want to hear
 Paul was a man teaching the Word of God, **therefore** his words were not to be rejected
 To reject the words of Paul was to reject God’s Word, hear what Jesus said to His followers,
Luk 10:16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.
 Jesus sent forth His followers to represent Him, to hear them was to hear Jesus
 Jesus represented the Father, to represent Jesus was to represent God the Father
 Anyone who rejected the words of the followers of Jesus, rejected the words of God the Father
 Christians who reject God’s Word are also rejecting God’s calling or God’s will for their life
 You cannot disregard the Word of God without rejecting the will of God for your life
 Paul told us in verse 7 that God has called us to **“holiness”**
 You must not fail to recognize the importance of holiness to your daily life
 To live an unclean life is an attack against God’s purpose for our life
 You are rejecting God’s way of living, do not think that God can be neglected
 To reject God’s call to holiness is to reject God’s Holy Spirit which God has **“given us”**
 To reject the Holy Spirit is to reject the power of God over sin and a life of **“holiness”**
 It is God **“Who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit”**
 Literally, God has given us His Spirit who is **“Holy,”** there is an emphasis upon His holiness
 In so doing, God is putting an emphasis upon the holiness of the Christian life
 To continue to live in any known sin is to sin against the Holy Spirit within you
 The Holy Spirit given to the believer is God’s prescribed way of “Holy Living,” **Eph 4:30** And grieve not
 the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
 The Spirit is Holy and He dwells within us that we might be holy, an unholy life grieves Him
 We **“grieve”** the Holy Spirit when we do things that His influence tells us not to do
 Christians must not **“quench”** the Spirit, **1Th 5:19** Quench not the Spirit.
 There is not a more important message for the average church or Christian today
 Paul is saying to us do not discourage the activity of the Holy Spirit in your life
GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS HOLY SPIRIT THAT WE MIGHT BE HOLY
 Do not ignore what the Holy Spirit desires to do in your life
 Don’t stifle, suppress, or subdue the Spirit--Quit saying “no” to the Holy Spirit
 It is time for the church of today to not only sing “Victory In Jesus” as our theme song
 It is time for Christians to live a daily victorious life, which is to live a life of holiness
 Victory in Jesus is allowing the Holy Spirit to do what the song says, “Breathe On Me” #238