

What Does God Require of You?

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday, June 27, 2010
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

“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-U).

“Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more” (1 Thessalonians 4:1—NRSV).

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more” (1 Thessalonians 4:1—KJV).

The obligation of church leaders and teachers includes encouraging and urging fellow followers of Jesus Christ to live “more and more” as God wants us to live. Paul wrote his letters to encourage all believers to please God by everything they do in every area of life, not just in the churchy areas. By attending weekly worship and Bible school, believers ought to receive needed encouragement to keep on growing intellectually and spiritually, so they will know how to apply the Bible’s teachings, in the power of Jesus Christ, to every aspect of their lives. Through daily Bible reading, God tells us how to please Him. Worshiping and studying with others weekly helps us stay on the right path of life, especially when temptations and the times in which we live require spiritual toughness.

Never think of entertainment, recreation, and sports, which sometimes bring mental and physical refreshment after a stressful week, as equivalent to worship, Bible study, and church family fellowship. Among other benefits, regular church attendance provides opportunities to draw closer to God through public praise and prayer, to learn more about what the Bible teaches from other believers and their experiences, to discover how to live more pleasing to God, to love and receive love from one another, to love and serve others more effectively, to share encouragement on how to make the best choices day by day and live the best life, to bring mercy, hope, peace, and eternal joy to every trusting heart. — Copyright 2010 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

You may be reprint or reproduce this Parkhurst Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.com

Questions for Further Thought or Discussion

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday, June 27, 2010
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1. How do we know whether or not we ourselves (and others) are living to please God?
2. What characteristics would a congregation demonstrate if the congregation was living (and committed to living) in order to please God? In what ways (and for what reasons) can a congregation be tempted to live to please people instead of God? What are some of the consequences of a congregation living to please people instead of God?
3. In what ways today are Christians tempted to live as nonbelievers (as “Gentiles,” in Paul’s letter)? In our day, why must Christians be encouraged to actually live according to the Bible’s teachings? What are some ways the church can help those in the church who are living openly as unbelievers live (living immorally)?
4. Why should true faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior lead to obeying Jesus’ commandments? What would you say to any believers who think they do not need to obey Jesus, because they think they are going to go to heaven when they die anyway?
5. What does the Bible teach about work? How can we apply the Bible’s teaching about work in ways that will help those who come to our churches asking for a handout or financial help?