



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 4

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Introduction

- St. Paul ended chapter three by praying for them to establish their hearts blameless in holiness at the second coming of the Lord
- In the chapter, he instructed them on their role to be blameless in the coming of the Lord
- He spoke about:
 - ❑ Walking in holiness (4:1-8)
 - ❑ Walking in love (4:9-10)
 - ❑ Walking in diligence (4:11-12)
 - ❑ Walking in hope (4:13-18)



Walking in Holiness (4:1-8)

- In the Lord Jesus Christ: any exhortation should be made in the Lord i.e. with His power
- Abound more and more: grow always
- As you received from us: Apostolic Tradition and discipleship
- Walk and please God: According to His commandments
- The believer should walk in a way worthy of his calling



Walking in Holiness (4:1-8)

- The will of God is our sanctification
- Without holiness we cannot see God (Heb 12:14)
- Sanctification: to be transformed into His likeness
- Abstain from sexual immorality: in all its forms because God cannot dwell in a heart that is not pure
- Vessel: the body (2 Cor 4: 7) which became temple for the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6: 19)



Walking in Holiness (4:1-8)

- How to possess one's own body or the body of the spouse in sanctification and honor
- Not in passion of lust like the gentiles:
 - ❖ Our bodies are different because they are the temple of the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ Many practices which are done by the children of the world should not be considered at all by the children of God
 - ❖ Knowledge of God assists us to walk in holiness



Walking in Holiness (4:1-8)

- Don't take advantage or defraud your brother in this matter:
 - ❖ Because God is avenger of all such
 - ❖ God did not call us to uncleanness but to holiness
 - ❖ To reject this is to reject God
 - ❖ Your body is temple for the Holy Spirit
- St. Paul forewarned them (e.g. the story of David)



Walk in Love (4:9–10)

- No need: Because they are already walking in love
- Taught by God: not only through the teaching but through His work inside their hearts
- Increase more and more: always there is a room for growth.
- God is love so love is infinite and thus:
 - ❖ Nobody can claim that he achieved the perfection in love
 - ❖ We need infinite time to be perfect in love



Walk in Diligence (4:11-12)

- Expecting the coming of the Lord made some of them to be idle which caused many problems
- To lead a quiet life: not making a big show of your lives
- Mind their own business: not being busybodies
- Work with their own hands: being responsible
- Walk properly toward the unbelievers: being wise
- So that they may lack nothing: freedom from financial embarrassment



Walk in Hope (4:13-18)

- Many Christians were killed by the persecution which made their brethren to be sorrowful
- Fallen asleep: there is no death for the Christian but a departure
- Our hope in resurrection makes our sorrow to be different
- Sleep in Jesus: those who were united with the Head, will be raised in glory as the Head of the body rose again



Walk in Hope (4:13-18)

- By the word of God: inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- The sequence of events in the second coming:
 - ❖ The Lord will descend with shout, voice of archangel, and the trumpet of God
 - ❖ The dead in Christ rise first
 - ❖ The rapture of the alive
 - ❖ Thus we shall be always with the Lord.
- The coming of the Lord and the resurrection of the dead is the source of our comfort



Conclusion

- How to be blameless in the coming of the Lord?
- What is the will of God?
- Why should we abstain from sexual immorality?
- Is there a limit for our growth in love? Why?
- How we walk in diligence?
- What is the sequence of the events in the coming of the Lord?
- Why we comfort one another regarding those who have fallen asleep?