1 Thessalonians - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Behavior: Part 1

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1TH 2:10

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves among you that believe.

1 Thess. 2:10

Good behavior is so important! There are few things that will do more to spoil your testimony to those around than bad behavior. People watch you - your way of life, your speech, your actions and reactions, and they judge your Christianity by what they see and hear. Be careful to maintain good behavior.

CareLines: Volume 3, Honesty

MAY 22

For neither at any time used we flattering words . . . nor a cloak of covetousness.

1 Thessalonians 2:5

The Christian world is full of crooks. Some TV evangelists make millions of dollars by using “flattering words” and “a cloak of covetousness.” The Apostle Paul was honest, and he is a good example to follow. The Lord wants us to be honest in all things. Everything we do should be done for the Lord’s honor and glory. Remember that He sees everything, He knows our thoughts and intentions, and we will have to give an account of how we conducted ourselves here. Be honest.

CareLines: Volume 3, Gentleness

MAY 23

We were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.

1 Thessalonians 2:7

A nurse cherishing her children leaves us a mental picture of a very kind, patient and gentle person doing everything she can to protect her young charges and to help them learn and grow. A true servant of the Lord will not strive (or be hard to get along with), but will be gentle unto all. Is that what marks you? Gentleness! It’s a great quality to practice.

CareLines: Volume 3, Walk

JUNE 18

Walk worthy of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:12

Walk in such a way that God is not ashamed of you. That is an extremely high standard, but totally attainable. The new nature CANNOT sin. It is God’s nature and He cannot sin. Therefore, we can walk worthy of God. By keeping the old nature in the place of death the new nature will flourish and everything that the new nature does is pleasing to God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Faithfulness: 1

1TH 3:8

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

1 Thess. 3:8

Nothing thrills an older Christian more than seeing a younger one “standing fast in the Lord.” By that I mean that you live for the Lord, you remain faithful to Him and His Word even though others may not. It’s a real encouragement to us to see you wanting to please the Lord. Don’t give up. Jesus is coming soon. Stand fast!

CareLines: Volume 3, Encouragement

1TH 4:18

Encourage one another.

1 Thess. 4:18 J.N.D.

We all need encouragement. Make a special effort today to be an encouragement to others.

CareLines: Volume 3, Fornication

MAY 25

Ye should abstain from fornication.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

. . . But we were so much in love . . .

. . . We didn’t mean to . . .

. . . Hey, listen, man, it happened before we could stop . . .

. . . Everybody does it, so what’s the big deal? . . .

But God says: ABSTAIN FROM FORNICATION. We must obey God rather than make excuse for our own lack of self-control or our own permissiveness.

CareLines: Volume 3, Self-Control

MAY 26

Every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:4

There are many practical verses in Thessalonians that are a challenge to the way we conduct ourselves. Yesterday we considered the need for abstinence from fornication. It’s all very well for me to say, “Don’t do it.” But how can you guard against it? Paul says, “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” That’s one way that you can exercise self-control - by walking in the Spirit. Perhaps you have some suggestions as to practices to help avoid fornication. Write them down and send them to me (Paul Pascoe). We’ll publish a list of practical helps to avoid this most damaging sin.

CareLines: Volume 3, Purity

MAY 27

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

The world is fast sliding into an abyss of uncleanness. Romans 1 shows how bad man would become, and we are at that point today. God has given up the Christ-rejectors to allow them to practice all kinds of evil and immorality. But for those of us who belong to Him through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been called out of the world and its ways to be holy and wholly for Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Love

JULY 24

Ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

When a person becomes a Christian they receive a new nature that loves others even when they are unresponsive or unlovable. God's love is that way too. He loved us when we were sinners and away from Him. His love went all the way to Calvary, and on into death. And He still loves us even when we do wrong and commit sin. His nature is now ours and our love can go out to others even in the most trying situations. Some things we learn by reading, some things by listening. To love, we learn from God Himself. And His lessons bring great reward.

CareLines: Volume 7, No Hope

Others which have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Why no hope? Because they have no Saviour, no home in heaven, no peace with God, no inheritance through Christ. The "others" in our verse are those who have never put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord. We pray that if there is one person reading this who is afraid of death, you will begin today to really live with no fear by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and giving your life to Him.

CareLines: Volume 7, Rapture

We which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

This is where the term "rapture" comes from. "Caught up" means literally to be "snatched away forcefully." This is like a hawk diving down to catch and take away its prey. So the term "raptor" is sometimes used to describe birds of prey. Do you know this could happen at any moment? Sometimes you read or hear the words "perhaps today." That is referring to the momentary possibility of our Lord Jesus descending from heaven to take all His people to heaven before the tribulation. Make sure you are ready. Jesus says, "Behold, I come quickly."

CareLines: Volume 2, Thankfulness

1TH 5:18

In every thing give thanks.

1 Thess. 5:18

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

Need we say more? No matter what circumstance we find ourselves in we can always thank God for His incredible gift - the gift of His own Son, the Lord Jesus. Nothing compares to this. Our salvation cost God His only Son. In order for us to get to heaven God gave His Son and punished Him on Calvary's cross for our sins. That should be enough to make us thank Him in every situation.

LOVED

The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people . . . but because the Lord loved you.

Deut. 7:7, 8

This was spoken about Israel, but we can take it for ourselves. When we see the vast majority of people leading godless lives, we can find joy and comfort in the fact that God loved us so much that He chose us to belong to Him - not because we were better, or had more numbers, or more brains, or more money. No. Just simply because He loved us.

CareLines: Volume 3, Kindness

JULY 25

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

It's in our nature to get even, just like the bumper sticker that says, "I don't get mad, I get even." That's the old nature at work - quick to respond in an unkind way. But the Apostle Paul in writing to the saints at Thessalonica reminds them, and us, to always follow that which is good. Instead of a harsh word, a kind remark. Instead of anger, a quiet response. Instead of derision, sympathy. Let the new nature take control. It makes for peace.

CareLines: Volume 3, Blameless

JULY 26

I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Every part of us, from the depths of our being to the outside shell, needs to be preserved. It is so easy to get occupied with the world and its wickedness, especially when you are in school. The peer pressure from others of your age is very strong. All the moral standards that our forefathers tried to stand for in the fear of God are being given up. We do well to pray this prayer for each other every day: “I pray God that your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved BLAMELESS unto the coming of the Lord.”

CareLines: Volume 3, Appearances

DECEMBER 26

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Young people, be very careful of what you do and of what you allow in your life. If anything gives even the appearance of being evil - don’t do it. Satan is out to trip you up. You have to be on your guard at all times. Something may, in itself, not be evil. But if it appears to others that what you are doing or what you are allowing is evil - drop it - QUICK.

CareLines: Volume 7, Disorderly

Warn them that are unruly.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Unruly can be translated “disorderly” or “insubordinate.” Paul was instructing the believers in Thessalonica to warn those who would not listen to the teachings of the Scriptures. Later, in the second letter, Paul instructs them to have no social fellowship with any who rejected the truth. Society today has little or no recourse against those who are insubordinate. Human rights allow a person to say or do almost anything. But God frowns on the disorderly Christian. We must respect God-given authority.

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