

Instruction On How To Do It

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4

Introduction:

1. In about everything that we get today in material things, such as new lawn mowers, snow-blowers, entertainment centers, etc. we receive instructions on how they go together.
 - a. These instructions are meant for our good – they are meant to help us assemble the item and how to run it.
 - b. Costly mistakes can be averted with the following of instructions, such as, failing to put oil in a brand new lawn mower before starting it, even though the instructions said **"WARNING - OIL MUST BE PUT IN THE ENGINE PRIOR TO STARTING"**.
2. The same as with our spiritual life, we must read the instructions for Peter told Jesus that He (Jesus) had the *words of eternal life* – **John 6:68**
3. And, thus it is for us today, as Christians, that we MUST follow the instructions (*that means hearing, believing and **OBEYING***) what God has given us, or **WE WILL NEVER SEE** God because Jesus Christ “became to all those who obey Him (Jesus Christ) the **source of eternal salvation.**” – **Hebrews 5:9**
4. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the church at Thessalonica in the fourth chapter of First Thessalonians, gave the church some instructions on (1) *how to walk*, (2) *sanctification* and (3) *hope*, in which we will this morning take a closer look at and how it applies to our lives today.

I. Received Instruction How To Walk (v1)

A. By request.

1. The Amplified Bible “*we **beg** and **admonish** you*” (v1)
2. A request that is made to the church at Thessalonica by the Apostle Paul with great importance.
3. The same request that God desire’s of His children today.

B. By exhorting.

C. By commandments from God

1. It is God’s desire that we walk according to the instructions as set forth in His word.
2. The instructions on how we are to live, how to love our neighbors, yes, and even our enemies.
 - a. How do we walk with God?
 - b. Using the mindset of God and His word or do we walk according to our OWN WAY?
 - c. The commandments of God are meant to be obeyed! – As a soldier must obey his superiors in the military, so it is with Christians today obeying our God – for it is for our own good.

D. By authority from Jesus Christ

1. In His name, and by his authority, and as ordered by Him; for Paul’s commission was to teach men all things, whatsoever Christ commanded – and it has not changed, we are to do the same today.

2. Today, we have **TWO authorities** in Spiritual matters, **from heaven** (God's Holy Word) or **from men**, "*The baptism of John was from what source, **from heaven** or **from men**?*" Jesus asked the question in- **Matthew 21:25**
3. The Apostle Paul received his authority from Jesus Christ – it is God's Word whereby we will be judged for Jesus said ("*the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*" – **John 12:48** – *it will also judge each and every one of us*) and it is God's Word that will remain long after the commandments and doctrines of men have went to the grave along with their authors.

II. Received Instruction On Sanctification (v7)

- A. Unto holiness – consecrated or purified
 1. Paul told the church at Corinth, "*Let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*" – **2 Corinthians 7:1**
 - a. Such as all impure words, filthiness, and foolish talking, all rotten and corrupt communication, which defile a man's own body.
 - b. Have a pure heart for Jesus said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders." – **Matthew 15:19**
 2. Only **IN Christ** can we be purified.
- B. Unto love of one another (v9) – the second greatest commandment – for Jesus said, "*The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'*" – **Matthew 22:39**
- C. To excel more and more (v10)
 1. Continuing to grow into the excellence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 2. Daily studying God's Word showing ourselves approved unto God.
- D. To be ambitious: (v 11)
 1. To lead a quiet life
 2. Attend to your own business
 3. To work with your hands keeping busy (an old cliché is: "*idle hands are the devils workshop*")
- E. Behave properly towards outsiders.

III. Received instruction On Hope (v13)

- A. Of the resurrection (must remember that Paul is talking to Christians at Thessalonica and the Christians know the outcome of those who **HAVE NOT obeyed** the Gospel (*the unbelievers*) therefore the Christians only interest is about Christians – some who have died and for the Christians that are still alive)
 1. IF you believe that Christ died and rose again (in which they did – the whole foundation of Christianity is based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ – Paul further explains in **1 Corinthians 15**, IF there is no resurrection)
 2. Christ will return (v14) someday

3. Of those who have fallen asleep (died) **IN Christ** (means **obedience** to Christ – they are **IN Christ**)
 - a. Must be **IN Christ** to be a Christian, “*For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ.*”
Galatians 3:27 – to enter Christ, one is baptized (immersed) into Him – the same as those on the day of Pentecost for the remission of their sins – **Acts 2:38**
 - b. The Apostle Paul states in **Romans 8:1** that there is “*no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*”
- B. The Apostle Paul was encouraging those Christians at Thessalonica in that Christ had not returned and that those who were in the grave (those who died **IN Christ**) would someday be resurrected to spend eternity with our Great God and that they were not give up hope, because as Christ has risen from the grave, so shall we when He returns to gather into Him His children for **ALL OF ETERNITY.**

Conclusion:

1. Paul **instructed** the church at Thessalonica in (1) how to walk, by following the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ; (2) how to be sanctified and (3) how to have a great hope.
2. The same is for us today, the **instructions** are set before us in God’s Word and it is up to each and every one of us to follow His **instructions.**
 - a. For the same can happen to our spiritual life, if we do not follow the **instructions**, as a lawn mower that the owner forgot to put oil in for the first time – which is a very expensive mistake that could have been averted **IF** the owner had followed the **instructions** but, **OUR (YOURS AND MINE)** failure to read and heed the **instructions** from God have a **MUCH GREATER CONSEQUENCE** than any material thing and that is our **VERY SOUL to languish in hell for eternity.** Yes, there is a hell, even though you do not hear hardly anyone preach about it anymore.
 - b. “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” – **Mark 8:36**
3. So, the question that I will leave you with is as follows: “Are you truly following and heeding (obeying) the **instructions** that God has set before us, in His Word, whereby some day we may have eternal life?”
 - a. Only you AND God can answer that – for God knows our very heart – is your heart right with God?
 - b. Have you obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - c. To obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, one must believe that Jesus is the Christ (**John 8:24**), repent of one’s sins (**Luke 13:3**), confess His Name before man (**Acts 8:37**), be immersed for the remission of your sins (**Acts 2:38**) in order to be clothed (**Galatians 3:27**) with Christ and remain faithful until the end (**Acts 2:42**). As Ananias told Paul ‘*Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.*’ (**Acts 22:16**)