



SERMON NOTES

January 12, 2020

Scripture: I Thessalonians 4:1-2 (NAS)

“Walking To Please The Lord”

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 1 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.
- 2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

I. IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT IN UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

A. Chapters And Verses Were Not In The Original Text

1. They are helpful
2. There would be difficulties if they were not numbered

B. The Numeration Is Not Divinely Placed

C. Some Chapter Divisions May Wrongly Divide The Flow Of Thought

II. PAUL’S PRAYER FOR SANCTIFICATION Chapter 3:12-13

A. Prayer Precedes Action

B. Prayer Empowers The Action

III. PAUL ADDRESSES THE HOW-TO OF SANCTIFICATION

A. He Is Speaking To Believers (brethren)

B. He Identifies The Obligatory Nature With The Word “Ought”

1. We are God’s creatures
2. We were bought by the blood of Christ

C. The Word Walk Focuses On How We Live

1. Life is a journey
2. Scriptures maps the way
3. Our Shepherd leads us in the paths of righteousness

D. Pleasing God Is The Motive For Holy Living

1. The word pleased elsewhere in Scriptures *Matthew 14:6; Acts 6:5; I Corinthians 7:33*
2. The pleasure is in accordance with God’s nature
3. God’s holy nature calls for holy behavior *I Peter 1:14-16*
4. We were made new for this purpose *I Corinthians 6:17-20*
5. Our highest goal should be to please God *Luke 14:26*

E. The Commandments Are Our Directive For Pleasing God

1. Can’t trust our own heart *Jeremiah 17:9*
2. Can’t trust ecclesiastical directives