

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (12/30) — Ephesians 6

Tuesday (12/31) — 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

- Even though Paul had suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, he didn't quit (2:2). He continued his ministry with boldness. This is the opposite of how people quickly quit serving today when they get their feelings hurt in the slightest way. Write down a sentence or two describing what you would say to someone tempted to quit serving the Lord in some ministry.
- In 2:4 Paul says that he doesn't strive to please people, but rather strives to please God. In 2:6 he says essentially the same thing when he says that he doesn't seek glory from people. Rate yourself, 1 to 10, on how well you strive only to please the Lord. What are you doing in your life that is strictly done to please or impress people?
- The Thessalonians accepted the word as the word of God, not simply the word of men (2:13). What does it mean for us to accept what we read in the Bible as the word of God and not the word of men?

Wednesday (1/1) — 1 Thessalonians 3:1 – 4:12

- In 3:6-9 we see how thrilled Paul was to learn that the Thessalonians continued in the faith. Paul was so burdened for the spiritual faithfulness and maturity of the Thessalonians. This teaches us two things: (1) Spiritual growth and maturity are very important. (2) We should be interested in the spiritual growth of others. So who are the people you are burdened for spiritually? Write their names down. Pray for them and for your influence in their lives.
- In 4:3-5, Paul makes 'abstaining from sexual immorality' a critical piece of maturing in the faith. Why do you think 'abstaining from sexual immorality' is such an important part of walking with the Lord? What is one thing you can do to take this instruction more seriously in your life?
- People often think their sexual sin is a private matter, but 4:6 reminds us that it is always a sin against another person. Sexual sin always hurts and defrauds another person. Go through the exercise of writing down the people who are sinned against in each of the following sexual sins. (You should be able to come up with several people for each sin.)
 - The sin of adultery | Who does it hurt?
 - The sin of viewing pornography | Who does it hurt?
 - The sin of a one night affair | Who does it hurt?
 - The sin of premarital sex | Who does it hurt?
 - The sin of an online affair | Who does it hurt?

Thursday (1/2) — 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:28

- In 4:13-15 Paul explains why the grief Christians experience when their saved friends or family die, is so different from the grief lost people experience when their unsaved friends or family die. Write down, in a way a lost person could understand, how our grief is different and why?
- Paul tells us to encourage one another (4:18) with the truth that one day, maybe today, the Lord will snatch-up all the living believers from the face of the earth (4:17). Why is that such an encouragement?
- What does Paul mean when he says (5:15) that no one should repay evil for evil? Have you ever done this?
- In 5:22, we are commanded to abstain from every form of evil. What forms of evil are most difficult for you to abstain from? Ask the Lord to help you with these.

Friday (1/3) — Proverbs 6

- Procrastination and laziness are the focus of 6:6-11. In 6:7-8 we see that the ant prepares for the future without even being told to do so. The ant does not wait for cold weather to panic. He works ahead. What areas of your life are you "behind?" What do you need to be more focused on to be as wise as the ant?
- We are instructed in 6:20-21 to take the spiritual things we have been taught all our lives and bind them to our hearts and tie them to our necks. What do you think that means? What are some practical ways you can follow this instruction?
- What do you think the writer is talking about in 6:27-28? Write a list of consequences you would face if you were guilty of sexual sin.