

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: January 28, 2024
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

1. What was last week's text (4:1-8) about?
 - a. Living in order to please God.
 - b. Doing so more and more.
 - c. God's will that we should be sanctified...
 - d. Avoiding sexual immorality and controlling our bodies.

2. What were the Thessalonians known for, according to 4:9? _____

3. What does "Yet" imply, in verse 10?
 - a. They are doing everything well.
 - b. Like "Therefore" or "for" in Biblical texts, it is a word we should pay close attention to.
 - c. When we think that we are already doing something well, it is easy to become complacent and not allow God to grow us as he wants to.

4. Why does Paul write to them about loving each other if he says in the very statement that he doesn't need to write them about it?
 - a. This is a continuation of the "more and more" that he was talking about in the previous section.
 - b. Paul often initiates correction by telling the church what they are doing well...not unlike John's letters to the churches in Revelation.
 - c. Although they love each other on the surface, Paul sees aspects of what it might look like to love each other that they are missing.

5. What does Paul mean by saying they should "aspire to a quiet life" and "work with your hands" in 4:11-12?
 - a. There were some who were idle and not being productive (see 2 Thess 6-15).
 - b. Idleness tends to lead you to get into other people's business (become a busybody), which is usually a recipe for something other than love.
 - c. When we are idle and depend on others for support, it is their work that provides for us...while they may be happy to do it for us, it is not best for us to put them in that position if we are able to support ourselves.
 - d. Some people are out for recognition and notoriety instead of being an example in their faithful obedience to God...this is not the life that God calls us to.

6. Are you doing something productive with your time or are you being idle? _____

7. Are you pursuing notoriety or are you living a quiet life that could be an example to those around you? _____

8. Are you listening to the "more and more" that God still may want to work on in your life even though you may be doing well in some areas? Yes _____ No _____ What is he working on in you? _____
