

## I Thessalonians

Class #134 – Tue PM - 1/31/2006

### Review from Sunday -

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**POD** – The spiritual leadership should not esteem themselves as more important than the team (the flock) or those that comprise the team as they are servants of the Lord.

### Qualifications for leadership

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- Self-motivated.
- Genuine humility.
- Authority orientation.
- Loyalty to God and to His Word.
- Devoid or free of personal agendas.

### **John 13:1-17**

(1) Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

(2) During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him,

(3) Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God,

(4) got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

(5) Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

(6) So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

(7) Jesus answered and said to him, "**What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.**"

(8) Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.**"

### **Symbolic teaching of the Lord**

- Washing is required due to being dirty.
- Dirt symbolizes the defilement of sin.
- Sin requires cleansing.

*Washing feet was the job of a servant in the ancient world.*

(9) Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

(10) Jesus said to him, "**He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.**"

- "**Bathing**" represents the washing from sin the believer receives at salvation.
- "**Washing**" represents partial cleansings from sin required after one has been saved based on the principle of **1 John 1:9**. Something the Lord does for you!

*First thing Christ was teaching - there must be a willingness to be served*

- You have to allow the Lord to do for you the things that you sometimes want to do for yourself (John 13:10).
- Notes this in light of SIN! What is often our response?
  - Pity or feeling bad.
  - Guilt.
  - Grieving over our actions.

- We want to pay for or make up for what we did wrong through a system of penance.
- In fact – your cleansing from sin comes from grace.
- You must be willing to receive that grace.

(15) "For I gave you an example (a model, a pattern to be emulated) that you also should do as I did to you (to serve one another as God sent you to do).

***If Christ, as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, could do this, how much more should we be willing to follow His example?***

*Second thing Christ was teaching – the requirement for having a place on His throne with Him; reigning with Christ*

- We must not only be willing to serve, we must serve.
- Carpe Occasio the opportunities to serve one another.
- Prerequisite is to have genuine humility.

(17) "If you **know** these things, you are blessed if you **do** them (there is a difference between knowing and doing).

**POD** – Christian will experience true happiness (+H) when he is doing what God would have him do.

**John 12:26**

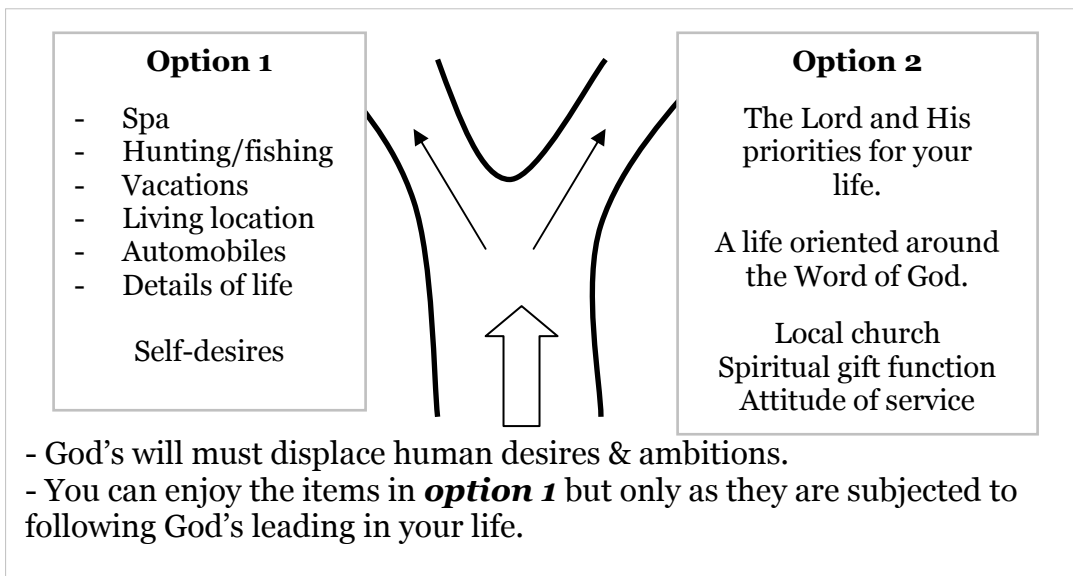
(26) "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, **the Father will honor him.**

Serving the Lord is analogous to serving the body of Christ by functioning in our spiritual gift and fulfilling the responsibilities of our Church Age Believer Priesthood.

**John 12:24-25**

(24) "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat (analogous to the believer) falls into the earth and dies (figuratively – laying aside of personal desires, ambitions, agendas; the things that We want to do), it remains alone; but if it dies (to the desires of self), it bears **much** fruit (spiritual production).

(25) "He who loves his life (self-fulfilling) loses it, and he who hates his life (fulfilling for another) in this world will keep it to life eternal (eternal rewards and blessings).



***It brings glory to God when we lay aside OUR desires in order to seize opportunities to follow HIS desires for us.***

### **Matthew 4:18-22**

(18) Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

(19) And He \*said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

(20) Immediately they left their nets **and followed Him.**

(21) Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

(22) Immediately they left the boat and their father, **and followed Him.**

### **Matthew 9:9**

(9) As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He \*said to him, "Follow Me!" **And he got up and followed Him.**

### **Matthew 16:24-26**

(24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself...**

"Deny" - APARNEOMAI – "to forget one's self; lose sight of one's self & one's own interests" †

**... and take up his cross** (cross signifies your will or desires) **and follow Me** (subject the things you do to God's leading).

(25) "For whoever wishes to save his life (those who seek self-desires) will lose it; but whoever loses his life (by following God's will for his life) for My sake will find it.

(26) "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – Interpretive translation**

(14) For the love FOR Christ (our personal love for Christ) sustains us, having concluded this, that one (Christ) died of all...(15) and He died for all, (purpose clause) in order that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

***Things that you do in time will impact your status for all eternity***

*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*

† Thayer's Greek Definitions.