

Ashland Church of Christ 2007
Spreading the Good News

“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...” (MATTHEW 28:10)

Do I Understand Church? — Purpose
Am I an Encouragement to Others

Text: 1Thessalonians 4:1-7

Key Text: *1Thessalonians 4:1, “Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;”*

Introduction:

- 1) All of us want to be an encouragement to others.
 - 2) In the final end, if we are going to grow, then we must be an encouragement to others.
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- I. Am I seeking God’s will or my own?
 - A. This is certainly the context of 1Thessalonians 4.
 - B. Ignorance is not always wrong but it can be expensive at times.
 1. This is true in day-to-day living.
 2. This is true in matters of salvation (Romans 1:20).
 - C. Interestingly, when we see the will of God, the blessings always come back on us.

1. Matthew 6:33.
2. 1Timothy 2:1-4.

II. Am I selfish with the things I have found in Christ?

- A. God sanctifies us in the beginning.
- B. We have a part in our initial sanctification and in our continuing sanctification.
 1. The gospel plan of salvation.
 2. Other passages for our continuing salvation:
 - a. 1John 1:7.
 - b. 1Thessalonians 4:1-7.
- C. We do not serve ourselves (passions and lusts) but rather God.
 1. Interestingly, going through this text backward, we will see a progression:
 - a. In contrast to serving ourselves, we serve the will of God.
 - b. We serve the will of God by obeying His commands and walking (living) the way He wants us to live.
 - c. This will cause us to abound more and more (grow).
 2. It all comes back to seeking God's will and not our own will.

III. Am I showing my brother that I love him?

- A. The final application of doing God's will is treating our brother kindly.
 1. Exodus 10:1-17.
 2. Matthew 25:31-46.
- B. This means it comes back to church: Am I an encouragement to others?
 1. Remember the theme for thy day and for the year.
 2. One reason for the church is so that we can have encouragement to live a certain way.
- C. Why do we treat others kindly? Because God said so!