

# The Ripple Effect

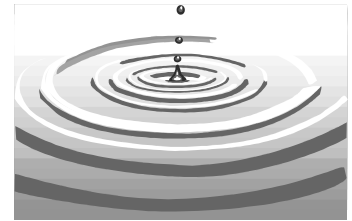
*Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians*

## The Daily Grind

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians 4-5

It is in the daily grind of life that our maximum impact on others occurs. It is a "grind" because obedience to Christ in the practical issues of life isn't easy, and it doesn't occur all at once. However, over time the grinding out of our faithfulness to the Lord results in a sharpening and a polishing that makes us very effective in the kingdom. Some very specific "grind-it-out" areas are addressed in 1 Thessalonians 4-5 this week. The first of these is the area of sexual purity. In the immoral culture of our day, as it was for the Thessalonian culture, the temptation to sexual impurity invades our lives incessantly. Resistance to this requires an initial commitment to holiness, based on the fact that this is the will of God; but it also demands an ongoing decision to refrain from immoral-

ity. Paul then addressed the area of work. While many treat work as a necessary evil, Christians are to view work as honorable, and as a vehicle to provide not only for our own needs, but the needs of outsiders. Our ambition in our work must be to enable us to live in peace and security, rather than in a constant mode of panic. A third area that often "grinds" away at people is the death of our loved ones. We grieve that they are no longer with us, but even more so over the possibility that we might not see them again. Paul reassured the Thessalonians that those who have died "in the Lord" will return with Him, and we will be reunited with them forever. So, although we do have a time apart from them, we can take



**Living a Life That Positively Impacts Others**

comfort that it is only temporary. In relation to the Lord's return, we must live as if His return will be very soon. This means alertness, as well as the carrying out of daily disciplines such as encouragement, support, gratitude, constant prayer, and an openness to God's Word through others. In general we must abstain from all evil and hold onto what is good. As we engage in the daily grind in all these areas, we positively impact others for the Lord.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Thessalonians 4-5

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader\\_resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader_resources))*

<p>1. Read 4:1-5. What does it mean to be sexually pure (v3, 4-5)? Whose idea is this (v2, 3)? Apply this.</p>	
<p>2. From 4:6-8 what impact does sexual impurity have on those around you (v6) and why? How does God respond to it (v6-8)?</p>	
<p>3. According to 4:9-12 how should believers treat their work (v11)? When we work productively and value it, was does it enable us to do for each other (v9, 12)?</p>	

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## I Thessalonians 4-5 Study Questions (cont)

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| 4. Using 4:13-18 what promise to believers is made about believers who have already died (v14-15), and about the Lord's return (v16-17)? How should this affect us (v13, 18)?              |  |
| 5. Based on 5:1-5 what will the Lord's return be like for those who don't know Him (v2-3)? What should it be like for those who do (v4)? What should we do with this truth?                |  |
| 6. From 5:6-8 what should the believer's mindset be regarding the Lord's return (v6)? What action should they take (v8), and what do you think this means?                                 |  |
| 7. In 5:9-11 what twofold "hope" do we have (v9, 10)? What should that lead us to do for each other (v11)?   |  |
| 8. According to 5:12-14 how should church members relate to their leaders (v12-13), and to their fellow members (v13-14)? What keeps us from doing this?                                   |  |
| 9. Looking at 5:15-22 list the specific instructions given for living out our daily Christianity. How would your life change if you did these things?                                      |  |
| 10. From 5:23-28 what is our ultimate goal as Christians (v23), and who guarantees this (v23-24)? Practically, how does this happen (v25, 26, 27, 28)?                                     |  |
| 11. Summarize God's desire for our sexual purity, our work, our relationship to the future, and our daily practices. Write down one or two of these things that you can work on this week. |  |

### Scripture to Remember

*"For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NAS)**

### Celebration Fellowship

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Restoring—Raising Up*

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### Life Group Questions—Exodus 35-36

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Would you rather receive a handful of cash, or a gift? Why? Which does God do for us, and how are we to let the money He gives us have a lasting effect?
2. Talk about some of things, including money, that we have to give to God through Celebration Fellowship. How can we be sure we give the "first-fruits"?
3. Why does God want everyone to participate in giving, rather than just those who are wealthy? In your opinion, which group has less trouble with giving?
4. Share some of the reasons that we should be motivated to give? Get personal.
5. Would you consider yourself an abundant giver, and a willing giver to the Lord? What are some ways that we can know this, and how can we grow in this?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.