

# God's Will and Pleasure: Our Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

# The Flow of Paul's Letters

- In Paul's letters the *indicative* comes before the *imperative*
  - Declaration before Exhortation
  - What God has done before what we are to do
  - This is who you are in Christ so this is how you are to live

# Motives for Obeying God

- Religion — “I obey, therefore I am accepted by God.”
- The Gospel — “I am accepted by God because of Jesus, therefore I obey.”

# Keep doing it ... but do it more and more

- “We ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more” (4:1)
- “But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more” (4:10)

# Sanctification

- Sancti — “holy” as in “Spiritus Sancti”
- Sanctification has the idea of being set apart and dedicated for God’s use — making something, someone, or someplace holy in contrast with the common or impure.

# The Big Idea

- Our lack of holiness is not as much of an under-achievement problem as it is an under-gospeled problem.

- “Sexual immorality” = porneia
  - Root of *pornography*
  - *Porneia encompasses all sexual relations outside of marriage ... including sexual gratification by lustfully looking at images*

# The Holy Spirit as the Mark of a Genuine Christian

- “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” –Romans 8:9
- “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were *sealed* with the promised Holy Spirit,” – Ephesians 1:13



# Consecration to Make the Common Holy

- “Also you shall purify the altar, when you make atonement for it, and shall anoint it to consecrate it. <sup>37</sup> Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it, and the altar shall be most holy.” – Exodus 29:36–37
  - Atonement was required
  - Anointing to consecrate or set it apart as holy

# Table Discussion

- What do you think about the idea that our challenge with holy living is more of an under-gospeled problem than it is an underachievement problem? ... Does that make sense or ring true in your life?