

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



What is the “Vessel” in 1 Thessalonians 4:4?

By Mike Riley

A querist asks, “In 1 Thessalonians 4:4 – KJV, what is Paul referring to as the vessel in this passage – a wife or a body?”

In the context, the word “vessel” in 1 Thessalonians 4:4 refers to the body of the individual. In fact, this term was a common Greek metaphor for “body” since Greeks thought of souls living temporarily in bodies.

Note that in 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – KJV, Paul uses the phrase, “we beseech you, brethren.” The “brethren” is in reference to the Thessalonian church (1 Thessalonians 1:1). Paul is exhorting them to “walk” acceptably before God in their daily living (cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:12; Colossians 1:10).

In the latter part of 1 Thessalonians 4:3-KJV, Paul admonishes them to “abstain from fornication.” The idea Paul is stressing here is the same idea he presents in Colossians 3:5 – KJV, “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (abnormal desire), and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Note that in 1 Thessalonians 4:4-KJV, Paul uses the phrase, “every one of you,” which includes every member of the church, and then exhorts them to “know how to possess his vessel (body) in sanctification and honour.” They are to maintain purity and self-control (Romans 6:19; cf. Romans 6:13; Romans 6:22). When sensual passion is the master of a person, he or she is the one “possessed” (Romans 6:16; cf. 2 Peter 2:19).

Even the inspired apostle Paul had to constantly “discipline his body and keep it under control....”(1 Corinthians 9:27-ESV). As Paul followed Christ, we should be followers of Paul in this regard (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17).

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
When Shovels Break
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thru the Bible in
52 Weeks - 1
Thessalonians
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Study of the Book of Acts
7:00 PM



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website
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“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 - "Who" Is Being Discussed?

By Mike Riley

A querist asks, "In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, who is being discussed here – all persons, good and bad, or is it only talking about those who are "in Jesus"?"

The text in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 reads:

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Obviously, there was some confusion among the brethren in the church at Thessalonica who thought that only the righteous "living" would be allowed to participate in the blessings and benefits of the Lord's coming. Those who had previously died before the Lord's coming would somehow be left out of the resurrection. Paul writes this letter to alleviate their fears and confusion, assuring them that their dead relatives would not be excluded from the resurrection at the Lord's return (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.").

To emphasize the above fact, Paul writes that the righteous dead, i.e. "the dead in Christ" (1 Thessalonians 4:16b), will be resurrected before the righteous living are caught up (1 Thessalonians 4:15b; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The disobedient are not mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. They are briefly mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:13b. These "have no hope" (note the similar phrase in Ephesians 2:12, see below, with regard to unbelieving Gentiles). The disobedient will be resurrected at the same time the righteous are.

There will not be two resurrections as some falsely teach. There will be one resurrection with two classes of people present; the obedient (good) and the disobedient (evil). We know this to be true from reading John 5:28-29; cf. Matthew 25:32-33; Matthew 25:46; Acts 24:15).

Ephesians 2:12

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

John 5:28-29

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Matthew 25:32-33

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:46

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Acts 24:15

And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Maxine Powell)
- All those affected by COVID-19
- Greg Powell (recovering knee surgery)
- Ann Lowe (Keren Thrash mom, stroke)
- Caroline Wells (friend of Rowell's, car wreck)
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-

Communion Preparation

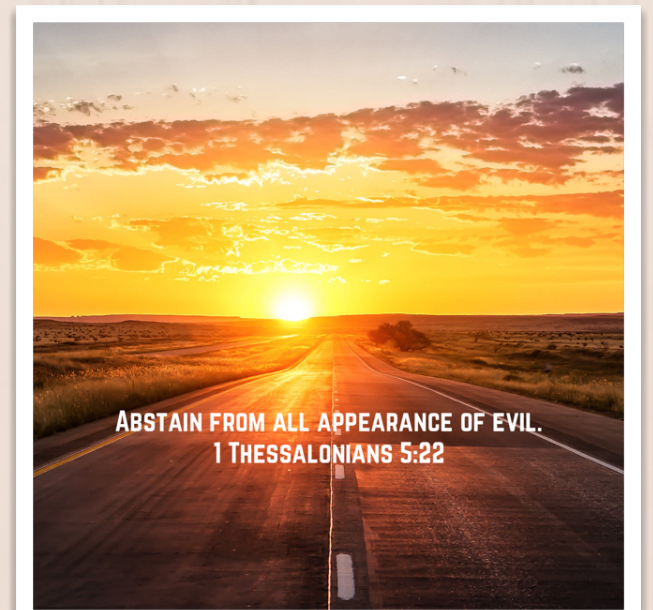
- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer
- April - Juliano
- May -
- June -

Announcements

- Graduation celebration for Laila McKenzie on Sunday May 2 following worship service. Please see sign up sheet in the foyer for food.

April Birthdays & Anniversary's

- None



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery
 Scripture Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:14 - 23
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord's Table - Scott Williams
 Assist on Lord's Table - David Cradic
 Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:20 - 29
 Closing Prayer - Don Potts

**Every Sunday Morning
 @ 8:00 AM
 on WTOK-TV**



Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3