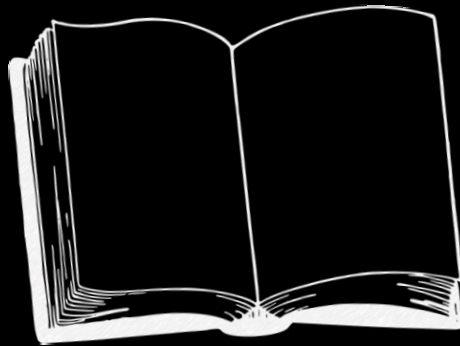




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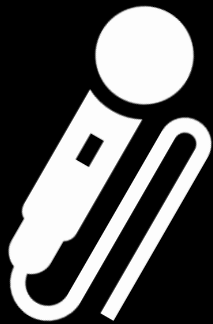
BIBLE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8



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'LET GOD'S FUTURE SHAPE YOUR PRESENT' #6

1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8

Speaker: Auke Rienstra

THE BRUTAL REALITY

- The Roman culture was immoral
- Ours increasingly as well
- Why?

Because they do not know God (vs 3-6)



WHAT IS SEXUAL IMMORALITY

- Adultery (Ex. 20:14; Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9; Jam. 2:11)
- Prostitution (1 Cor. 6:15-18)
- Incest (Lev. 20:11-21; 1 Cor. 5:1-2)
- Sex with animals (Lev. 18:23; 20:15-16)
- Homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:10; 1 Tim. 1:10)



SOME SAD FIGURES PROSTITUTION & PORNOGRAPHY

In the Netherlands...

In the US...



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WHAT SECULAR EXPERTS SAY

Pornography and sex addictions are very destructive. Negative self-worth, shame, loss of confidence, isolation, avoiding behavior, loss of sense of reality are the results. It is also crushing regarding relationships such as with spouse and children.



TIM CHALLIES SUMMARIZED IT
LIKE THIS:

Sexual immorality is idolatry,
committing adultery, betraying,
stealing, lust, abuse and grieving the
Holy Spirit...



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**WE SHOULD BE
DIFFERENT!**

Because:

We do know God
Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ



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LIVE HOLY LIVES, PLEASING TO GOD

Vs 1 'to please God'

Vs 3 'for this is the will of God: your sanctification'

Vs 4 'control your own body in holiness and honor'

Vs 8 'God called us not for impurity but in holiness'

Holy means: 'set apart', 'being different'

Sanctification: literally refers to a state of being set apart from sin to holiness



WHY LIVE HOLY?

1. Be holy for I am holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16)
2. To please God (vs 1)
3. For your own joy (John 17:13, 17)



SANCTIFICATION IS A PROCESS

Vs 1 'and do so more and more'

- Positional holiness
- Manifest holiness
 - Vivification
 - Mortification



SANCTIFICATION IS A PROCESS

- There are instructions given to us (vs 2)
- Sexual immorality is a sin against others (vs 6)
- Sexual immorality is being disobedient toward God Himself (vs 6B, 8)
- But God is gracious and gives us His Holy Spirit



SO...

Being sanctified in holiness is a gift God is working in you:

Paul prays therefore:

'may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father' – 1 Thess. 3:12-13



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