

Study to be Quiet

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – 12

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~ I am moving our Spiritual Safari as quickly as I responsibly can through these two epistles the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica. However, I don't want to neglect anything. On the one hand, Paul is to be commended for his work in writing; on the other hand, I am not to be. So, I am just trying to strike that balance and propel things along without becoming completely bogged-down. Unfortunately, that can lead to a bit of haste in some areas where a strong emphasis should be placed. If you have not read our last report from this epistle, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. See, God knows all about the depravity of our human hearts. While it may be a surprise and a sorrow for us to come to terms with, it's no surprise to the Lord that the man who appears to have everything together in this life and is, by all appearances, an outwardly good person, is really a filthy and degenerate sinner who is unable to do anything acceptable in service to God Almighty.

The modern day world outside no longer accepts the Judeo-Christian ethic as outlined in the Word of God. The world is guided by a pagan and apostate religious philosophy that sprinkles in a little Jesus for credibility, but ultimately destroys every person, place, and thing that it comes into contact with. Those who are in the church – both saved and unsaved – are saturated with the religiously pious cretin of the current world climate. That is the condition that is present all around us right now. If you want to talk about the environment, then let's talk about this present world being destroyed by fire. Seriously, my dear readers, I am now putting up a red-flag category five hurricane warning regarding the teaching of this letter from Paul in our safari. If I have ever warned you not to read my reports before, I am strongly doing so again now until we get back to Ezekiel. In fact, just forget the Spiritual Safari altogether – that might be the best idea.

At the risk of pontificating and sounding like a complete bigot, our safari position is that God has not changed, and the Word of God has not changed – ever. The standard of holiness that Jehovah instituted with Abraham and

Israel still stands as I type this report and as you read it. When men throw those laws and precepts off, we get what is spoken of in Psalm two, which reads, “...they said, let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us...” It is a total and complete rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and of God as Holy, Just and Righteous. The next logical progressive step is to ignore the Bible wholesale; and begin making up whatever standard of liberty we want to make up. Well, you can call liberty whatever you want to, but it has brought this world into abject slavery tonight.

Irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, like it, argue or teach it – or not – the freedoms that the United States enjoys is the direct result of the Bible being respected as the Word of God. No other way, my atheistic friends. In fact, ANY freedom of rights that ANY current nations have is directly derived from Biblical principles. Let’s stop kidding ourselves, and get real. Genuine believers who have trusted Christ are sanctified holy and set aside for His plan and purpose on this earth. Without them in the world, there would be no Holy Spirit to restrain evil. The world is heading in that direction as fast as it can spin. Total chaos, fraud, greed, hate, racism – and every other social malady you can name – will be magnified and will someday be the only way of life man knows; total corruption and deception will permeate every relationship and dealing of man with his fellow man. It’s coming, my beloved – you can believe that, because that’s what Christ says....

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

~ Holy men of old spoke as they were moved of the Holy Spirit. Moses was a holy man; but Moses' life – not so much. The writer of most of the Psalms, King David, wouldn't qualify for sinless perfection in this life under positional sanctification, either. You may not know this but I, Andrew C. Hunt, likewise, am not perfect. I *KNOW* that's difficult to believe and accept; so, let's just keep it as our little secret - but it's true. Even though I discovered my imperfection a *LONG* time ago, I still rejoice that I am accepted by God in Christ Jesus. If that were not a basic tenet of Scriptural truth, then I can tell you I would be greatly disturbed. The root meaning of *sanctification* is to be set aside for the use of God. Anyone who has trusted Christ as their Savior has been eternally redeemed. Now, Christ Jesus lives through us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and uses us as He will in His Holy Will for His glory. This is the same thing God was teaching the nation Israel in tabernacle worship. Frankly, all of these great doctrines are best illustrated with very simple lessons. I only wish I could actually do that....

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

~ The genuine child of God must have love for the brethren. As we saw in our last report, Godly love only comes supernaturally. The lost world has no conception of what true love is; it has only sensationalism, sentimentalism, and emotionalism in temporary feelings that change from moment to moment. The natural man – even the so called “*do-gooder*” – does not esteem others better than themselves and place the welfare of others above their own. That just doesn't happen in the lost world. I realize the lost man occasionally conjures up some nice things to do for others – but they aren't done in love – they're done in self-righteousness; and they sure

aren't done all the time – only when other people – the right people – are watching.

The lost world treats love like some abstract theoretical term to be applied only when appropriate. Love, in the concrete world that surrounds our hearts and lives, only comes *ONE* way – by the power of the Holy Spirit. When love is set in spiritual concrete, it is rock solid. That's when we develop true brotherly love. My estimation is that most self-professing believers only understand love in the abstract. They incessantly talk about "*agape*" love – but they're usually the meanest bunch of people in a church. Lying, deception, and gossip are the hallmark of that type of make-believer. Their self-proclaimed walk with the Lord is way up in the somewhere or another – but never down on the sidewalk of real life. There is something radically wrong with the Christian who says they love their brethren when there is no evidence of such. There must be evidence – or it just isn't so.

Candidly, I recognize there are some saints today who aren't very lovely. Many say that about me. To dwell above with the saints of love, that will sure be glory; but down here below, with the saints I know, well, that's a different story! Paul and his fellow servants loved all the brethren; but we have to understand that when we say "*we love all the brethren*" our resolve will flag at times. There are some other believers with which our personalities naturally clash. Frankly, it would be best not to hug and kiss everyone we know. In fact, it may be better to keep your distance from some other believers; but that doesn't mean you hate them – and it never means you wouldn't help them. It still means you consider their welfare above your own and esteem them higher than yourself, friends. That principle never changes. You may despise my methods of teaching the Word of God, but that's exactly what I am doing in this so-called safari; because it's the only way I know how to tell *YOU* that I love you, my dear readers.

So, our Spiritual Safari will end another shorter than usual leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God on the subject of study. We have innumerable courses and countless schools that teach men to do nothing in the world but talk. Every seminary in the world has a

prerequisite course on public speaking. I'm not sure there's a single class in the world that teaches men how to be quiet. Well, maybe one – the Spiritual Safari classroom! A whole bunch of you people need a course in studying to be quiet – and with an educated, sincere, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led teacher who loves the Word of God and loves the Lord Jesus Christ – and who loves *YOU* - and actually lives out a holy life – teaching you to remain silent while adoring Holy Writ....

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing ~

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