

Study Questions
Plans to Prosper?
God's Hope For Us
May 16, 2010

1) 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion.*

- a. What is the will of God?
- b. Explain sexual immorality given the understanding of marriage in Scripture.
- c. What does it look like for us to properly “possess our vessels?”

2) Ephesians 5:1-2 *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

- a. What does it look like to be imitators of God?
- b. What does it mean to walk in love?
- c. How do you suppose we can be a fragrant aroma to God as Christ was?

3) Ephesians 5:3-5 *But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

a. Compare actions proper among saints verse those not proper among saints.

b. Who has an inheritance in the kingdom?

c. James 3:2, 8-12 *For we all stumble in many ways If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ⁸But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? ¹²Can a fig tree,*

my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

- i. What do we learn here concerning the tongue?
- ii. Explain the metaphors in verse 11 and 12.

4) Ephesians 5:8-13 *For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.*

- a. Differentiate between the light and darkness imagery as well as how bearing fruit correlates (ie the unfruitful deeds of darkness in contrast to the fruit of Light which is righteousness and truth).
- b. What does it look like to expose the deeds of darkness?
- c. How are we to walk as children of Light?

5) Ephesians 5:15-18 *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*

- a. Why is it important how we walk?
- b. Why should we make the most of our time?
- c. What is the will of the Lord? Do you understand what it is?

6) Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

- a. How has viewing this verse in its complete context helped your understanding of the original intent?
- b. What plans does God have for you?
- c. How do the plans and hope God has for you coincide with your daily schedule?
- d. How will we obtain the hope and future God has for us?