

ANTI COMPLACENCY COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

based on the 35 instructions in 1 Thessalonians 4 & 5

NOTES FOR PREACHERS

Aim: 'to learn how to live in order
to please God more and more'

STUDY PLAN

sample below for preview

SESSION 1 - complacency free

for the rest of the course contact us

SESSION 2 - holiness friendly

SESSION 3 - love focussed

SESSION 4 - hope minded

SESSION 5 - time conscious

SESSION 6 - leaders friendly

SESSION 7 - socially skilled

SESSION 8 - joy seeker

SESSION 9 - prayer friendly

SESSION 10 - cynicism free

SESSION 1 - complacency free

good to read the whole letter at this point;
 . fulfilling the last instruction in chap. 5 verse 27
 '*charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers*'

to start

Summary

- Chapter 1 (see also Acts 17) = writers and Thessalonians first contact
- chapter 2 = the way the writers worked among them and their sudden separation
- chapter 3 = reasons for Timothy's visit and his good report
 - . **Question:** how do you think the Thessalonians would have felt after reading this? (Yes, well pleased!!!)
- final chapters, 4 & 5: **35 instructions** (with few comments) coming not from frustration but satisfaction inviting further progress

re Read 1 Thessalonians 4 verses 1 and 2

- these verses could be called '*bridge / transition verses*'
- does it mean just to 'brothers' ? *commentators suggest it is a generic word meaning both genders; see Acts 17:4 & 1 Thes.1:1*
- the instruction here is, *end of v.1, 'Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more'*
- quite an emphatic plea!!
- what is it they plead with them to do more & more? '*to please God*'

TO PLEASE GOD

- this was the challenge, and it is still the challenge today; it is ultimately to please God, and keep pleasing Him
- help from what being said in these verses:
 - . '*we instructed you*': **instructions needed**, need to be told what & how to do it, it does not necessarily come automatically
 - . '*as in fact you are living*':
 - * instructions need to be lived out.
 - * confirms sense of satisfaction, not just with men but God
 - * although not always the case; see also 1 Cor.3:1, Heb.5:11-14
 - . '*to do this (pleasing God) more and more*': satisfaction yes but no complacency, it is a journey not a destination
 - . '*you know*': some instructions they already knew, it was only a reminder; we might have to be reminded too (see 1 Pet.1:12-16)
 - . '*by the authority of the Lord Jesus*': some are commissioned by Jesus to instruct others and be an example (1 Pet.5/2-4), it is their 'ministry/service'

to sum up:

Actions to take

- to show humility concerning being instructed
- to put in practice instructions
- be aware of being pleasing to God
- willing & praying to please Him more and more
- being open to God wanting us to instruct others