

ANTI COMPLACENCY COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

based on the 35 instructions in 1 Thessalonians 4 & 5

NOTES FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

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 - leader 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
'I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers'

Initial comments: suggested summary

- chapter 1 (see also Acts 17) = writers (Paul, Silas and Timothy) and recipients of letter first contact
- chapter 2 = the way the writers worked among them and their 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 coming from not frustration but satisfaction inviting further progress

re read 1 Thessalonians 4 verses 1 and 2

to start: (note; **questions in bold** and [suggested answers in italics])

- **what could these verses be called ?** [bridge / transition verses]
- **'brothers' ?**
 [commentators suggest it is a generic word meaning both genders; see Acts 17/4 and 1 Thes.1/1]
- **what is the instruction here ?**
 [. End of v.1; **'Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more'**
 . 'to do this = ? ['to please God']
 - **'more and more'** = [no complacency]

suggested points of discussion if necessary

- . **'we instructed you' ?**
 [*instructions needed, knowing what to do does not 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 1 Cor.3/1, Heb.5/11-14*]
- . **'to do this (pleasing God) more and more'?**
 [*satisfaction yes! but not complacency, scope for progress to be made*]
- . **'you know'?**
 [*some instructions could be only a reminder, they already knew*]
- . **'by the authority of the Lord Jesus'?**
 [*some are commissioned by Jesus to instruct others, it is their service/'ministry'*]

Actions to take

(recapitulation if time permits)

- to show humility concerning being instructed
- to live out 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