

# ANTI COMPLACENCY COURSE

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## TEACHING

## NOTES

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

## COURSE PLAN

Title: The Anti Complacency Course (35 instructions)

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

### Sample for preview

SESSION 1 - complacency free (4:1 & 2)

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*for the rest of the course contact us*

SESSION 2 - holiness friendly (4:3 to 8)  
SESSION 3 - love focussed (4:9 to 12)  
SESSION 4 - hope minded (4:13 to 18)  
SESSION 5 - time conscious (5:1 to 11)  
SESSION 6 - leader friendly (5:12 & 13a)  
SESSION 7 - socially skilled (5:13b to 15)  
SESSION 8 - joy seeker (5:16)  
SESSION 9 - prayer friendly (5:17 & 18)  
SESSION 10 - cynicism free (5:19 to 21)

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## 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'***

### 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