

The Believer's Walk

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I. Introduction. Text: I Thessalonians 4.

II. Paul knew that if you were too hard on people you would discourage them. If you are too soft, they will go to sleep.

A. God never recommends vacuums. If He takes one out of a place, it is to put him back in somewhere.

B. Paul commended the Thessalonians for what they were, but he warned them that nothing besides holiness was enough.

III. We do not need to know what righteousness is, but we need to know that if we please God we are doing what is righteous. There must be affection towards God.

A. We ought to keep the commandments because these are things that please the Lord.

B. Christians who teach morals from a cold standpoint, talking always about how far they can go and not sin demonstrate a lack of spiritual maturity. The goal is doing what is pleasing in God's sight.

C. We are set apart to be a holy people.

IV. No nation is righteous—they are all evil.

A. Anyone who walks in borderline evil does so at a terrible risk.

B. Spirituality is thinking about things the way that God does.

C. Holiness is not wearing a tie—it is thinking about life the way that God does.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to strike a balance in leading the church concerning softness and toughness of approach?

2. What does it mean to be truly righteous?

3. What areas are you struggling to maintain holiness in? How is this challenge a matter of faith?
