

# **PLEASING GOD MORE AND MORE**

1 THESSALONIANS 3:10-4:2 - NOVEMBER 26, 2023

**Intro: Though they were doing well, Paul passionately prayed that he might be able to come and help them further (3:10-11).**

**Why?**

**Believers should be growing in the Lord...**

1. “supply what is lacking” (3:10)
2. “increase and abound” (3:12)
3. “establish your hearts blameless in holiness” (3:13)
4. “do so more and more” (4:1)

**because we are going to see the Lord (3:13) ...**

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\_\_\_\_\_ is how the Lord gets us ready to see him.

**and we want to please the Lord (4:1).**

Pleasing God is:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Discipleship? | Nov 1, 2020

### Galatians 4:19

**Core Passages to Read:** Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 8:1-30; 1 Corinthians 15:49-58; 2 Corinthians 3:18-5:10; Ephesians 4; Philippians 3:4-4:1; Colossians 1:5-2:7, 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-5:24; 1 Peter 1:3-16, 5:10-11; 1 John 3:1-3

**Other Passages Cited:** Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 15:20; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Galatians 4:20, 5:17, 6:17; Ephesians 2:5, 8; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:8; Jude 24-25; Revelation 1:5

### Summary:

We who are already saved in Christ are still struggling sinners who groan together with all of creation as we live in these perishing bodies. Therefore, we are waiting for final salvation<sup>1</sup> when Jesus comes again<sup>2</sup>. He will be revealed<sup>3</sup>, we will see Him, and we will be fully changed into His image<sup>4</sup>. This will include resurrection<sup>5</sup>, redemption from slavery<sup>6</sup> to physical corruption, transformation into conformity with His risen body, and eternal deliverance from sin's presence and power. This is our greatest hope<sup>7</sup>.

While we are already sons<sup>8</sup> with Christ, our final salvation can be described as the completion of our adoption as the redeemed sons are fully conformed to the image of *the* Son, share His glory<sup>9</sup>, and enter into their full inheritance from the Father.

Though we have been conformed to the sinful image of the first Adam from the original creation<sup>10</sup>, we will be conformed to the second Adam as new creatures in a new creation<sup>5</sup>. Though we have been in conformity to that first "son," we will be conformed to the ultimate Son, restored into the created image of God<sup>4</sup>. Then the Son and the redeemed sons will be gloriously revealed<sup>3</sup> so that all creation can worship and rejoice in this final salvation.

Understanding God's plan to completely conform us to the image of Christ *someday* should motivate<sup>11</sup> us to pursue growing conformity as disciples *today*<sup>4</sup>. Anticipating that we will be fully changed *then*, when we fully know Him, encourages us to pursue growing holiness, maturity, and transformation through growing knowledge<sup>12</sup> of Him *now*.

The suffering<sup>13</sup> we encounter as we grow as disciples is incapable of stopping God's purpose because the Spirit<sup>14</sup> (who is called the Spirit of the Son and Spirit of Christ) is guaranteeing, empowering, and accomplishing this work of making us like the Son.

In dependence upon the Spirit, we also seek to be used as God's instruments to see Christ formed in others. This costly ministry of discipleship is motivated<sup>15</sup> not by sight but by the fellowship with Christ, the joy of participation in God's purpose, and the faith-filled anticipation of the completion of that purpose. We will stand in the presence of the triune God for the presentation<sup>16</sup> of the sons of God resulting in the preeminence<sup>17</sup> of the Son as the "firstborn" among many brothers.

Therefore, we will eagerly pursue our own discipleship and the discipleship of others when we understand God's purpose to conform us into the image of Christ for our eternal blessing and His eternal glory.

### Sample Passages by Theme:

<sup>1</sup> **Final Salvation:** Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 1:5, 9

<sup>2</sup> **Second Coming:** Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:23-24; Hebrews 9:28, 10:24-25; 1 Peter 1:7-8; 1 John 3:2-3

<sup>3</sup> **Revealed / Revelation:** Romans 8:18-19; Colossians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:5, 7, 13

<sup>4</sup> **Image / Transformation:** Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:4, 10-12; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13, 23-24; 5:1; Philippians 3:10, 21; Colossians 1:15, 28, 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:14-15; 1 John 3:3

<sup>5</sup> **Resurrection:** Romans 8:11-13, 23; 1 Corinthians 15:49-58; 2 Corinthians 4:14, 16, 5:1-5; Philippians 3:10-14, 21; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>6</sup> **Slavery / Redemption:** Romans 8:20-23; Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 5:1

<sup>7</sup> **Hope:** Romans 8:24-25; Colossians 1:5, 23, 27; 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 5:8-9; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3, 13; 1 John 3:2-3

<sup>8</sup> **Sonship / Adoption:** Matthew 3:17; Romans 8:14-23; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:11-14; Colossians 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:14-15; 1 John 3:1-3

<sup>9</sup> **Glory / Glorification:** Romans 8:17-21, 30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:4-6, 15; Galatians 1:5, 24; Philippians 3:21; Colossians 1:27-28; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 1 Peter 1:7-11, 5:10

<sup>10</sup> **Adam / Second Adam / Original Creation / New Creation:** Romans 5:14, Romans 8:19-22; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45, 49; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Colossians 1:23, 3:10

<sup>11</sup> **Motivation for Personal Growth as a Disciple:** Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:12-13; Ephesians 4:23-24, 30; 5:1; Philippians 3:12-13, 4:1; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 5:8-9; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 1:13-15; 1 John 3:3

<sup>12</sup> **Knowing:** 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6; Philippians 3:8, 10; Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 1:27-28, 2:2-3, 3:10

<sup>13</sup> **Suffering:** Romans 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, 16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:4; Galatians 4:19; Philippians 3:8, 10; Colossians 1:24, 29; 1 Thessalonians 3:3-5, 7; 1 Peter 1:6-7, 5:10

<sup>14</sup> **Spirit:** Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:9, 11-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:5; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 1:11-12

<sup>15</sup> **Motivation for Discipling Others:** Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-6, 10-18; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Philippians 3:20-4:1; Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20, 3:8-10

<sup>16</sup> **Presentation / Presence:** 2 Corinthians 4:13-15; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:28; Jude 24-25

<sup>17</sup> **Pre-eminent / Firstborn:** Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 1:5