***Lesson Sixteen***

**1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**

**Sinful Behavior in the Church**

**1.** In v. 9 Paul makes **2 positive points** in regard to the behavior of the Thessalonians. What are they? What is Paul saying with these two positive points?

**2.** In the first half of v. 10 Paul commends the Thessalonians for their far-reaching love of the brethren in Macedonia. What does it say about a church that demonstrates love to brethren they knew little to nothing about in other cities?

**3.** Considering that the Greek and Roman societies saw self-sacrificing love as a weakness of character, what does v. 10 teach us about the faith of the Thessalonians?

**4.** In v. 10b-11a Paul gives **2 positive instructions**. What are they and what do they mean?

**5.** In v. 11b Paul then proceeds to identify a problem within the Thessalonian church by commanding **2 necessary courses of action**. What are the two commands and what do they mean?

**6.** Considering that Paul was highly complimentary to the Thessalonian church, was did he feel it necessary to give this strong admonishment in v. 11b?

**7.** The problem Paul identifies in v. 11b is also the subject of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. What does Paul’s repetition of his instruction indicate?

**8.** What was causing some of the believers in the Thessalonian church to quit working and to begin behaving in such a shameful way?

**9.** In v. 12 Paul provides **2 purposes** for his instruction in v. 11. What are these 2 purposes? What corrective action do they indicate the Thessalonians should take?

**10.** What is Paul teaching us in this section in regard to brethren who are in financial difficulty? Are we to help them or not? Explain.