

The First Possession!
A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH
February 6, 1999

TITLE: The *First* possession!

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

THEME: Sanctification

THRUST: To learn *how* to possess our vessel!

INTRODUCTION:

We sang a song in opening our worship this morning:

Living for Jesus

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior; I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, My heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

I want to talk with you this morning about our *first* possession!

What I am speaking of is relative to whom I am speaking to!

If you are without Christ this morning,

then your first responsibility is to come to *know* Jesus
as your Lord and Savior.

You must first be born again.

Born of His Spirit, through His blood!

If you *know* Jesus this morning, and are convinced

that He is your Lord and Savior,

then your focus needs to be on your walk with Him.

Walking in the Spirit.

We saw last week that our *need* is for a continual refreshment

of God's Spirit ... and that He will give

whenever, and as long as we keep on asking.

Paul said to the Christians at Galatia,

“Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill
the lusts of the flesh.”

We saw two weeks ago that the *first-step* in our walk

is to give thanks in every circumstance!

ETERNAL INK by Craig F. Pitts

So, how do we “lay up treasures in heaven?”

How do we “walk in the light as He is in the light?”

How do we “make our calling and election sure?”

How?

By giving heed to the things He has revealed.

Our attitude *must* be like Jesus',
"I have come to do your will, O, God."
"In every circumstance, give thanks,
for this is the will of God concerning you."

Before we can possess our possessions in heaven,
we must learn to possess our possession on earth.
"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1. Know the *Blocks to* your sanctification
2. Know the *Boundaries of* your sanctification
3. Know the *Blueprint for* your sanctification

I. Know the *Blocks to* Your Sanctification vs.2-4

Here: fornication, because, pre-Christ, it was a way of life!
If you find yourself **reacting** in the *old* way, talk to Jesus.
He makes *all things new*; we are *new creations*...
Or, if not enough experience in the *old* way
v.5 talks about the *way* of the Gentiles ...
those who do not know Jesus!
Heb.10:20 tells us about the *new and living way*
that has been made for us through Jesus!
Not only do we need to know the *Blocks to* Our Sanctification,

II. Know the *Boundaries of* Your Sanctification vs.2, 6

KJV says "go beyond and defraud his brother..."
meaning *overreach* or step over the boundaries.
What are the boundaries that have been set?
v.2 *You know the commandments we gave to you....*
Here: Commandment #7:

You shall not commit adultery &
Commandment #10:
You shall not covet your neighbors wife ... nor anything that is your neighbor's.

III. Know the *Blueprint for* Your Sanctification vs.7-8

- **Abstain(KJV) from the pursuit of worldly pleasure** **Avoid (NIV) — v.3**
It means to hold off,
1 Cor 6:18 *flee* fornication
1 Cor 10:14 *flee* from idolatry
1 Ti 6:11 *flee* from these things
2 Ti 2:22 *flee* youthful lusts
- **Acknowledge the place of the Word of God v.3, 7**

John 17:17-19 ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Acts 20:32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NIV)

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' (NIV)

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (NAS)
"A little boy had difficulty pronouncing some words. The word worship was one of them. He said, "We go to church to wash up." We certainly do!
Jesus said to the disciples "... now are you *clean* through the word which I have spoken to you...."

II Th 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (NAS)

- **Actively pursue the Way v.8** *Do not despise*
(to set aside, i.e. horizontal/passive position In other words, some are "couch potatoes" when it comes to the truth of personal sanctification and honor.)

CONCLUSION:

"*Living for Jesus*" Thomas O. Chisholm ~1917

1
Living for Jesus a life that is true,
striving to please him in all that I do,
yielding allegiance glad hearted and free
this is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain
O Jesus, Lord and Savior,
I give myself to you,
for you in your atonement
did give yourself for me.
I own no other master
my heart shall be your throne:
my life I give, henceforth to live,
O Christ, for you alone.

2
Living for Jesus, who died in my place,
bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace:
such love constrains me to answer his call,
follow his leading, and give him my all. Refrain

3

Living for Jesus wherever I am,
doing each duty in his holy name,
seeking the lost ones he died to redeem,
bringing the weary to find rest in him. Refrain