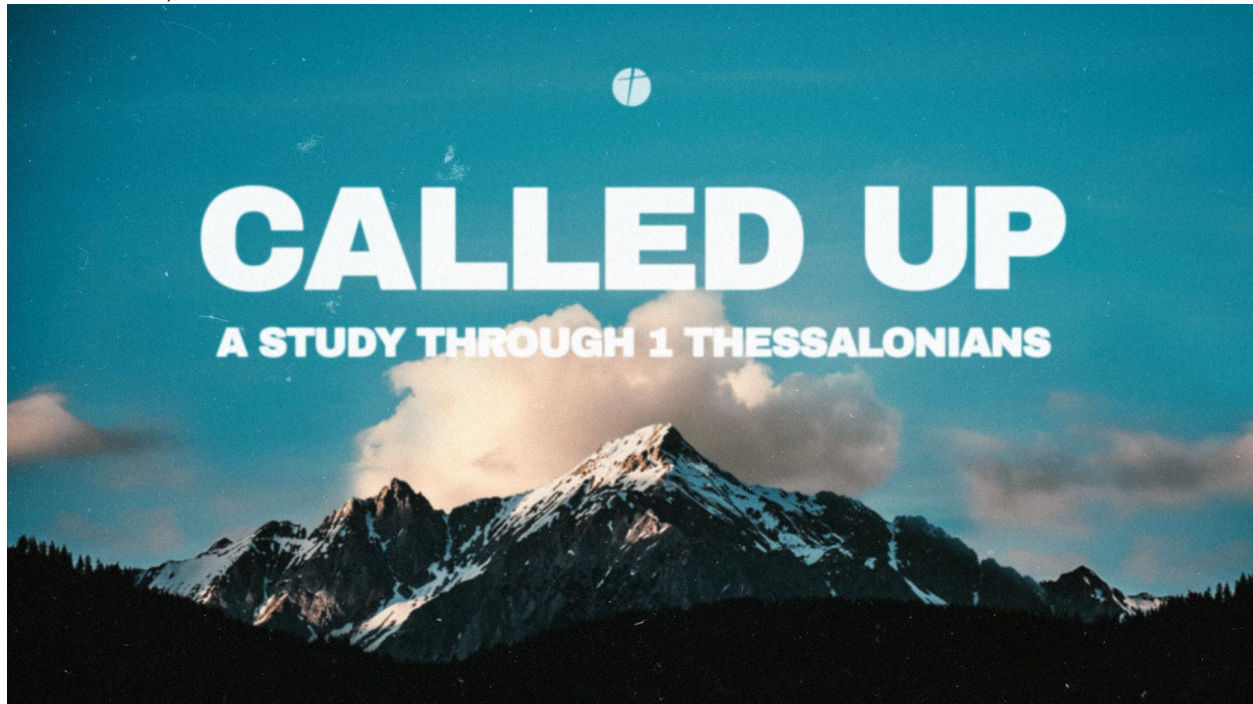


March 7 & 10, 2024



Called Up - Week #4 Called Up to Purity

- **Purity is a response to the grace of the King, not a means to earn the favor of the King.**

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 (NIV)

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

- **In light of what the King has done, Paul is reminding us to respond in obedience to the King's ways.**
- **Our purity is not us trying to gain something, but responding to someone.**

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NIV)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

- **We are called to become who we already are in Christ.**

Question: So, who are we in Christ?

I Peter 2:9-12 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

I Thessalonians 4:4 (NIV)

that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable,

I Thessalonians 4:5-8 (NIV)

not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

- **Our purity results from aligning with the King through the leading of the Holy Spirit, not from our own free will.**

I Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NIV)

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more,

- **Our love for those around us should reflect the love of our King.**

I Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV)

and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.