



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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THE NEXT STEP



SOMETIMES IT MAY SEEM THAT ALL YOU HEAR ARE MESSAGES GEARED TOWARD GETTING PEOPLE BACK ON TRACK IN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES. IT MAY SEEM THAT PREACHERS THINK EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CARNAL AND EVERY BELIEVER MISBEHAVES. SO WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT WORLDLY OR WICKED, IS THERE NOTHING MORE FOR YOU TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE? IS THERE NO WHERE FOR YOU TO IMPROVE?

WHEN RECENTLY READING THROUGH I THESSALONIANS I WAS STRUCK BY THIS VERSE. "FINALLY THEN, BRETHREN, WE REQUEST AND EXHORT YOU IN THE LORD JESUS, THAT AS YOU RECEIVED FROM US INSTRUCTION AS TO HOW YOU OUGHT TO WALK AND PLEASE GOD (JUST AS YOU ACTUALLY DO WALK), THAT YOU EXCEL STILL MORE." (I THESSALONIANS 4:1). I ESPECIALLY NOTED THE PHRASE "THAT YOU EXCEL STILL MORE." PAUL IS ENCOURAGING THESE BELIEVERS TO DO BETTER AT WALKING WITH AND PLEASING GOD EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ALREADY DOING SO. ALSO NOTE-WORTHY IS THE FACT THAT PAUL USES THE SAME PHRASE IN 4:10 WHERE HE ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS TO LOVE THE BRETHREN AND "EXCEL STILL MORE."

WHEN REVIEWING THE OPENING CHAPTER OF I THESSALONIANS WE LEARN THAT PAUL WAS MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THESE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WERE ACTIVE IN THEIR FAITH AND LABOR OF LOVE (SEE 1:3). HE ALSO NOTES THAT THEY WERE PASSIONATELY LOVING THOSE AROUND THEM BY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST (SEE 1:8). SO, HERE'S THE POINT: THEY WERE DOING WELL (CHAPTER 1) BUT HE ENCOURAGES THEM TO DO EVEN BETTER . . . "EXCEL STILL MORE" IN CHAPTER 4. PAUL NOR GOD EXPECTS US TO BE STAGNANT. HE WANTS US TO BE GROWING AND CONSTANTLY IMPROVING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND OTHERS.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

CONSIDER II THESSALONIANS 1:3. "WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR YOU, BRETHREN, AS IS ONLY FITTING, BECAUSE YOUR FAITH IS GREATLY ENLARGED, AND THE LOVE OF EACH ONE OF YOU TOWARD ONE ANOTHER GROWS EVER GREATER;" IMAGINE THAT! THE APOSTLE HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO "EXCEL STILL MORE" AND THEY DID! WHEN HE WROTE TO THEM A SECOND TIME THE FIRST THING HE MENTIONS IS THAT THEIR FAITH WAS INCREASING AND THEIR LOVE WAS GROWING GREATER.

SO, IF YOU'RE NOT WORLDLY OR WICKED THAT'S GREAT. BUT LET'S NOT THINK WE HAVE NO WHERE TO GO. EACH OF US SHOULD SEEK TO "EXCEL STILL MORE" IN OUR WALK WITH GOD AND LOVE FOR OTHERS.

LOOKING UP,
Pastor Chuck Circle