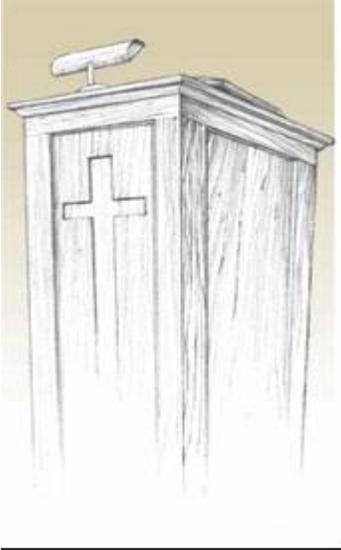


## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> February 11, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
<b>Topic:</b> Contemplating the Legacy and Continuing the Dream...the Priority of Freedom	



As we celebrate Black History month, there are some pertinent questions that we as people need to ask ourselves.

- What ought to be the primary focus of freed people?
- It is just to celebrate their freedom or capitalize on what they are now able to do?
- How well then does the Church and those who share the Black Experience maximize freedom today?

The Church at Thessalonica was founded on Paul's Second Missionary Journey after his miraculous release from prison in Philippi Acts chapters 16 & 17. It was an important and prosperous city which was on the trade route between East & West. The main concern of this Letter is for the Thessalonians to build upon their progress in the Gospel. In our focus passage he was calling his audience to advance holiness, helpfulness and personal honor.

Verses 3-8 speak of bodily control, as they point out:

- Purpose – sanctification (verse 3a)
- Particulars (verse 3b) - avoid sexual immorality
- Control body in holy way (verse 4a)
- In honorable way (verse 4b) - not in ungodly passionate waste
- Not in preying on a brother (verse 6a)
- Punishment for defrauding a brother (verse 6b)
- Purity (verse 7)
- Presumption (verse 8)

This is a call to please God more in our Cravings. We must do better with our Passions as:

- Black citizens
- For Sexual escapades
- For proving fertility
- Falling into hands of unfair legal system
- In narrow range of career choice
- For cultural inferiority

This demands that we be kept for the fact is that we are called to be **RIGHTEOUS** People.

Brotherly Concern is addresses in verses 9-10, as Paul highlights:

- Their Prior Knowledge (verse 9)
- Their Position Now (verse 10a)
- Their Pursuit of New Heights (verse 10b)

This is a call to please God more in our Communities.

- We must do better as Black citizens with our Partnerships with each other
- We lag behind in unity as a race
- We are preying on each other too much
- Some are too quick to respect others more than their own

This demands of us to be kind because we are called to be **RELATIONAL** People.

Building of Character is addressed in verses 11-12, as Paul encourages us to:

- Make your life Industrious (verse 11)
- Make your life Inviting (verse 12a)
- Make your life Independent (verse 12b)

This is a call to please God more with our Castle.

- We must do better as Black Citizens with our Possessions
- Too many spend too much on cars & other consumables
- Too little effort in building economic independence & clout
- Too Many fail to see economic advantage of education

We ought to be kingly because the fact is that we are called to be Royal People.

The Lord expects us to have more than ordinary trophies for the freedoms He has secured for us both socially and spiritually. Let us today answer the call of freedom to be our greatest and highest for the Lord while we travel this side of eternity.