

BROTHERLY LOVE: CONTINUING GROWTH (VV. 9–10)

- **Shift of focus**
 - From holiness in body (vv. 3–8) → to love among believers.
- **Verse 9 - Blue**
 - Paul doesn't need to explain extensively.
 - Thessalonians already "taught of God to love one another."
 - This love is not new revelation; it's embedded in God's dealings from the beginning.
 - Spirit impresses this truth upon believers' hearts.
- **Verse 10 - Blue**
 - Their practice matches the principle.
 - Love extends to "all the brethren... in Macedonia."
 - Paul commends them (already living it).
 - Yet he exhorts them to "increase more and more."
 - Christian love, like holiness, must continue to grow.
 - Not correction, but encouragement.

ORDERLY CONDUCT AND WORK ETHIC (VV. 11–12)

- **Verse 11 - Blue**
 - Third command (following holiness and love): practical conduct.
 - "Study to be quiet"
 - "Study" = make it your aim, be ambitious.
 - Greek: φιλοτιμέομαι (philotimeomai) = "love of honor."
 - Paradox: ambition to live without restless ambition.
 - Quiet = settled, peaceful, not meddling or agitated.
 - "Do your own business"
 - Occupy oneself with one's own affairs.
 - Plain command: mind your own business.
 - "Work with your own hands"
 - Rejects idleness and dependence.
 - In Greco-Roman context: labor seen as slave work, but Paul dignifies it.
 - Symbolic of personal responsibility, not literal restriction to hands only.
 - Emphasis: provide for yourself, not burden others.
 - "As we commanded you"
 - Instruction already given in person.
 - Contrast with Acts 2–4 communal living.
 - Kingdom program = communal distribution (anticipating imminent kingdom).
 - Dispensation of grace = personal diligence, responsibility.
 - Shows necessity of recognizing dispensational differences.
- **Verse 12 - Blue**
 - Purpose of quiet living, minding business, working with hands:
 - Walk honestly before outsiders.
 - Unbelievers should not see believers as idle or freeloaders.
 - Testimony: gospel produces integrity, not disorder.
 - Have lack of nothing.
 - Diligence provides for needs.
 - God's grace program emphasizes personal provision, not communal redistribution.
 - Broader implications
 - Judeo-Christian values (honesty, diligence, responsibility) → foundations for Western prosperity.
 - Max Weber's PROTESTANT ETHIC connection: convictions about work/thrift fueled modern capitalism.

- **Intro**
 - Famous, debated passage about the rapture.
 - Provides comfort but raises questions (timing, sequence, relation to prophecy).
 - Answers give hope, but also highlight limits of revelation.
- **Verse 13 - Blue**
 - Paul reveals **NEW INFORMATION** (not previously known).
 - If it were known, he could rebuke ignorance.
 - Instead, it is revelation.
 - Implications of new revelation:
 - From God (cf. 1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:16).
 - Entrusted uniquely to Paul (Gal. 1:11–12; Eph. 3:1–12).
 - Therefore belongs to new dispensation (grace).
 - Logical conclusion:
 - Rapture is distinct from Israel’s prophetic program.
 - Necessitates a pre-tribulational rapture.
 - Subject: “them which are asleep” (believers who died).
 - Sorrow is tempered by hope of resurrection.
- **Verse 14 - Blue**
 - Basis: Christ’s death and resurrection.
 - He is Lord of dead and living (Rom. 14:9).
 - Guarantee that the dead in Christ will also rise.
 - “Bring with him” = they are already “with him.”
 - Paul’s longing: “depart, and be with Christ” (Phil. 1:23).
 - Distinct revelation for dispensation of grace:
 - In prior ages, dead went to Sheol awaiting redemption.
 - Under grace: to die is immediately to be with Christ.
 - Both life and death transformed by Christ’s resurrection.