Nov. 15, 2020 a.m.

EXCEL EVEN MORE

Reading: **1 Thess. 4:9-12**

Sermon request for 2020

* How often do we use the word excellent? Human achievement? Has it become like the word ‘awesome” that according to Clyde Dean is so overused that it has lost its significance as an adjective?
* You have to love the attitude of someone who wants to hear a sermon on the phrase *“excel even more.”* Reminds of someone who wants to hear a sermon on how to avoid being lukewarm. It’s an excellent attitude! ☺

**“But we urge you, brothers *and sisters*, to excel *even* more”** (**1 Th. 4:10**) (NASB)

* *“But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more”* (NKJV)
* *perisseuo* – to superabound (in quantity or quality), be in excess, be superfluous; also (transitively) to cause to superabound or excel:--(make, more) abound, (have, have more) abundance (be more) abundant, be the better, enough and to spare, exceed, excel, increase, be left, redound, remain (over and above). (Strong’s)
* See the reading – **1 Thess. 4:9-12**
* Not so much love the ones you love more but love more people.
* Seek opportunities to love more people
* **1 Th. 3:12** *– “And may the Lord make you increase and abound (perisseuo) in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you”*
* Their example was known to all the churches in Macedonia and Achaia. (**1:7**)
* Also seek to *excel even more* – *aspire* (make it your ambition) *to lead a quiet* (calm, not restless) *life*, *mind your own business* (and not everyone else’s – don’t be a busybody (**2 Th. 3:11**) – take care of what you can take care of – wisdom of knowing when to help), *work with our own hands* (to provide for your own and those in need), *walk properly toward those who are outside of Christ* (setting a good example)

**What are *excellent*** (*huperecho* – superior, supreme, surpassing) **things?** (**Phil. 3:8; 4:7**)

* The knowledge of Christ – knowledge about Him and from Him (all of the NT)
* This knowledge *surpasses* (superior to) all other knowledge.
* The bible is the most *excellent* book!
* We must be willing to lose things (count them as rubbish) to gain excellent things.
* What we believed was right – thinking we were right with God – former confidence
* We can all *excel even more* at being like Christ. Lifelong pursuit. Work in progress.
* *Know Him* and conform to his death (**3:10**) – we die and Christ lives in us.
* Humble, meek, merciful, uncomplaining, obedient in all the Father asks, love, selfless, convictions (over turn some tables now and then)
* Beware of pride – be excellent at being humble while excelling more and more

**Seeking for more excellence**

* *"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds (perisseuo) the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* (**Mt. 5:20**)
* Make it our ambition to *excel even more* at living the sermon on the mount.
* *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding (perisseuo) in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* (**1 Cor. 15:58**)
* Do the work – teaching, repenting, conforming, transforming, serving, edifying
* Do what you can do in this local church and *excel even more*.
* Don’t compare yourself with others which is not wise. (**2 Cor. 10:12**)
* Give what you can give – *“That in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded (perisseuo) in the riches of their liberality.”* (**2 Cor. 8:2**)
* Sermon – Can We Do More? (2-23-20)
* *“And let our people also learn to maintain good works….”* (**Titus 3:14**)
* “Each day I’ll do a golden deed”
* **Gal. 6:10** *“as we have opportunity”*
* Opportunities will come for those who are looking for them.
* Doing more can mean doing the same thing every day – we do more by doing the same good each day.
* *“Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound (perisseuo) more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God”* (**1 Th. 4:1**)
* Seek to excel even more at walking in a way that pleases the Lord.
* *Make it our aim* (our life’s ambition) to please Him. (**2 Cor. 5:9**)
* We don’t have to excel at any worldly endeavor – it’s ok to not excel at anything others are trying to excel at (sports, academics) while excelling at pleasing the Lord.
* How many Christians are quietly excelling at pleasing the Lord?
* *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound (perisseuo) in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (**Rom. 15:13**)
* Faith that fills us with joy and peace makes our hope excel even more.
* Hope that comes from believing the message of the Spirit.
* *Joy* and *peace* even in suffering.
* *Tribulation* *produces* *endurance* which produces *character* which produces *hope*. (**Rom. 5:3-4**)
* If we have this hope, we will purify ourselves even as Christ is pure.(**1 John 3:3**)

**Are we excelling even more?**