



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	1 Thessalonian 4	Title:	Mind Your Own Business!
Author	Joseph Ooi		
Summary of Chapter	Pleasing God should be the ambition of every believer! In 1 Thessalonian 4, Paul exhorts the church to live holy lives – with special reference to the avoidance of sexual immorality – and to continue to grow in brotherly love. Christians should be characterized by two traits: purity & love! Paul also gives instructions about the 2 nd coming of Jesus.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
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<p><i>¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business & working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. ¹² Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, & you will not need to depend on others.</i></p>	<p>What does <i>living a quiet life</i> mean? According to John Calvin, the quiet life is when everyone devotes & discharges the duties of their own calling. It is living our day-to-day calling from God, regardless of what those around us are doing. It is literally “minding our own business.”</p> <p><i>Minding your own business</i> does not mean that we stop caring for our neighbors. Paul is commanding the Thessalonians to stop meddling in the affairs of other people. Instead of criticizing and gossiping how others live, they should instead concentrate on living their own lives well. Our problem is: #1 We talk to straighten others out. #2 We talk to explain & defend our actions. #3 We want to have the last word, always!</p> <p>How can I apply this? My business is to run the race that God has set for me and to finish well. My business is to discover & discharge God’s calling on my life. We can start by studying the scriptures. In the first half of 2021, I am committed to join the Men Bible Study to glean & apply the “Principles of Godly Living!” from the book of Deuteronomy. Minding my own business also involves controlling the tongue - knowing when to refrain from speaking, and when to speak: <i>Let your words be few & full ... say what needs to be said when it needs to be said</i> (Richard Foster, The Celebration of Disciplines 1980). Such real silence comes only as a sober consequence of spiritual stillness as we trust God more & more.</p>
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APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	Don’t meddle into the affairs of others. What proactive steps can you take in 2021 to discover & discharge God’s calling on your own life?
Youth:	Don’t be a busy body. Mind your own walk with God and commit to a goal that will please God in 2021.
Child:	Plan a bible reading timetable for 2021 with either your parents or a children's church teacher and commit to reading 1 chapter a day.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Heavenly Father, thank you for encouraging us today to live a quiet life & to mind our own business. Help us to work on this diligently in 2021. Teach us to depend on you, and to live a life that is pleasing to you and that is attractive to others.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus’ Name I/we pray. Amen.