

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are captured in motion, crossing the street. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the pavement, indicating bright, direct sunlight. The people are dressed in casual summer attire. One person in the upper right is looking at a phone, another in the center is carrying a bag, and others are further down the crossing. The overall scene is busy and urban.

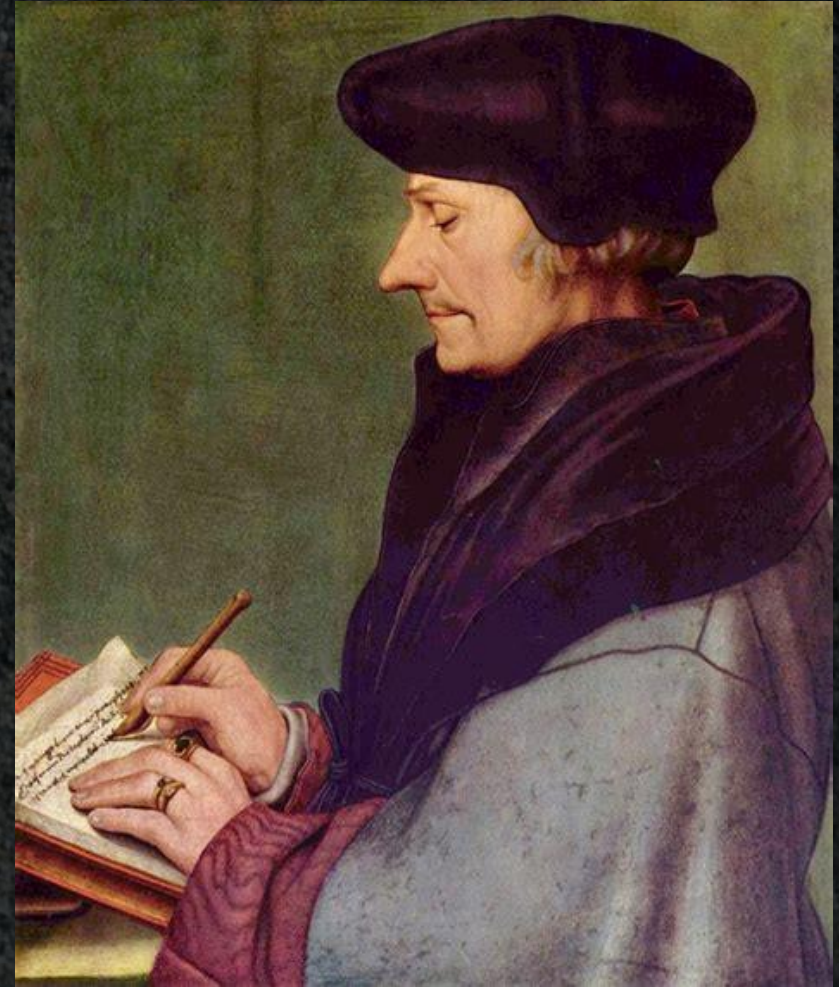
# LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with Our Love for Others”**

**I THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

“You may mark your houses, your vestments, and your churches, with the cross, as much as you please; but Christ will recognize no other badge than that which he himself prescribed, love of one another.”



**Erasmus**

*<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men and of  
angels, but have not love,  
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.  
<sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers,  
and understand all mysteries and all  
knowledge, and if I have all faith,  
so as to remove mountains,  
but have not love, I am nothing.*

**I Corinthians 13:1-2**

*34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

*35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

**John 13:34-35**

*12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

**John 15:12-15**

*<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me,  
but I chose you and appointed you that you should go  
and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,  
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name,  
he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you,  
so that you will love one another.*

**John 15:16-17**

*Everyone who believes that Jesus  
is the Christ has been born of God,  
and everyone who loves the  
Father loves whoever has been  
born of him.*

**I John 5:1**



*<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. ...*

**I John 5:2-3**

*Love one another with brotherly affection.  
Outdo one another in showing honor.*

**Romans 12:10**

- a. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
- b. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)**
- c. On the Resurrection (4:13-18)
- d. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
- e. On Recognizing Leaders (5:12-13)
- f. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
- g. On Nonretaliation (5:15)

**Walking to Please God**

## KEY POINT:

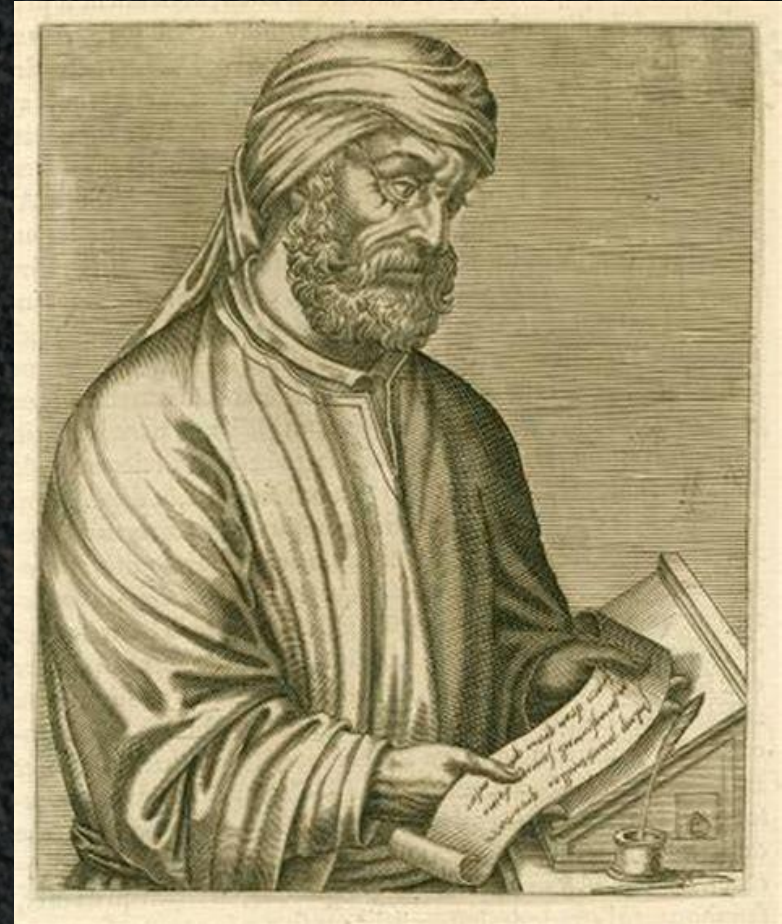
**We please God by loving our brothers  
and sisters more than ourselves.**

# I. A Commendation for Their Love (vs. 9-10)

- ***Phileo***: A form of affection we have for others like family or close friends
- ***Agapao***: An uninfluenced love that doesn't expect return

**2 Words for “Love” in Greek**

“It’s mainly the deeds of love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See how they love one another, they say, for they themselves are animated by mutual hatred; how they are ready to die for one another, they say, for they themselves will sooner put to death.”



**Tertullian**

*25 “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

**John 14:25-26**



*11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*

**I Corinthians 2:11-12**

*13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

**I Corinthians 2:13-14**

- I. A Commendation for Their Love (vs. 9-10)
- II. Some Applications for Applying Their Love (vs. 11-12)
  - A. Don't be fanatic; be peaceful (vs. 11a).

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  - A. Don't be fanatic; be peaceful (vs. 11a).
  - B. Don't be a busybody; mind your own business (vs. 11b).

*Let your foot be seldom in your  
neighbor's house,  
lest he have his fill of you and hate you.*

**Proverbs 25:17**

- I. A Commendation for Their Love (vs. 9-10)
- II. Some Applications for Applying Their Love (vs. 11-12)
  - A. Don't be fanatic; be peaceful (vs. 11a).
  - B. Don't be a busybody; mind your own business (vs. 11b).
  - C. Don't be a loafer; work hard (vs. 11-12).

- Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3).
- The Bible warns the lazy (Prov 6:6-11; 13:4).
- Refusing to work is foolish (Prov 21:25).
- Refusing to work brings ruin (Prov 24:30-34).
- Workers will have money to help others in need (Eph 4:28).
- Colossians 3:23 says we should work heartily.

## **A Christian Work Ethic**

“Men were created to employ themselves in some work, and not to lie down in inactivity and idleness. When God ordained that men should be exercised in the culture of the ground, he condemned, in his own person, all indolent response. ... Nothing is more contrary to the order of nature than to consume life in eating, drinking, and sleeping.”



**John Calvin**



- To have a good reputation with others
- To not wrongly presume on others

**Why We Should Work with Our Hands**