Northwest Bible Church – July 2, 2023 – 1 Thess. – Alan Conner

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

Excelling in Love

Intro

**A. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BRETHREN (1 Thess. 4:9-10).**

1. Topic: love the brethren (1 Thess. 4:9a). “*Philadelphia*

2. Taught by God to love one another (1 Thess. 4:9b).

a. Love unites – Col. 3:14

b. Love forgives – 1 Pet. 4:8

c. Love gives - 1 Jn. 3:16-17

3. Practiced among the churches (1 Thess. 4:10a).

4. Excel still more (1 Thess. 4:10b).

**B. RELATIONSHIP WITH OUTSIDERS (1 Thess. 4:11-12).**

1. Make it your ambition (1 Thess. 4:11a).

a. A quiet life -

b. Attend to your own business -

c. Work with your hands – Col. 3:17, 23

2. Purpose/reason:

a. Behave properly toward outsiders -

b. Not be in any need – Eph. 4:28

Conclusion

Discussion questions: Paul emphasizes love again. How is the church showing love to the brethren now? What are some ways we can excel in showing love? How can I as a believer promote more love in my family? In my church? Is our relationship with those outside the church honoring to Christ? Are there relationships that need to be mended with unbelievers? Are we measuring up to the standards given in 1 Thess. 4:11-12 with those outside the church?