

I Thessalonians 1: 8-10

*The Word of
the Lord
Sounded
Forth*

HHBC





I Thessalonians chapter 1: 8-10

Today's passage:

- 8** For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.
- 9** For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,
- 10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.



I Thessalonians 8-10

Main Purpose of the Epistle: Paul Must Clear Up

- 1) The issue with the Thessalonians:
 - a) Work of Faith: excellent
 - b) Labor of Love: excellent
 - c) Steadfastness/patience in Hope: they needed some shoring up on this

- 2) The issue: The Thessalonians knew from Paul's teaching that the Lord's return (appearing-*Parousia*) is imminent . . . However . . . They had some concerns:
 - a) What about Aunt June/ Uncle Marvin/ and John Q. Public, who have died within the last year and a half? They will miss the rapture? What is their eternal fate? What becomes of them?
 - b) Paul needed to clear up their thoughts on their blessed hope [JN Darby: Snopsis]

ADAPTED FROM: THE BLESSED HOPE AND THE TRIBULATION; JOHN F. WALVOORD; ZONDERVAN 1976; PP 94-95

I Thessalonians 8-10

The Tenor of this Epistle:



1) Personable, Warm

- a) Paul warmly opens his heart to the Thessalonian believers, overflowing, in kindred tones. (Wm Kelly)
- b) He is happy/refreshed at Timothy's status report on the condition of the assembly at Thessalonica; Paul's joy bursts forth in remembrance of them, in constant thanksgiving to God for their stability and growth. Alas his short labors were not in vain in Thessalonica.
- c) The brevity of Paul's ministry there: He was in their presence three Saturdays, likely less than a month. Some others say up to 6 weeks.
- d) Note: how Paul does address them from his apostolic title. . . The Thessalonians never had any doubts he was directly from the Lord.

2) The Doctrinal topics covered by Paul to this new church (Paul writing approx. 1 ½ years later):

- a)** Election (1:4); **b)** the Holy Spirit (1:5-6; 4:8; 5:19). **c)** Conversion (turning away/to) (1:9); **d)** Assurance of salvation (1:5); **e)** Sanctification (4:3, 5:23); **f)** general Christian life teachings.

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The coverage was thin with great gaps, but Paul covered it.



I Thessalonians 1:8

8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

1) The word of the Lord sounded forth from you . . .

- a) Sounded = *exec-heō*. Out from – sound. (Constable) picture: *an echo that rings out indefinitely. Unmistakable proclamation*
- b) Macedonia: the Greek region that Thessalonica is the principal city
- c) Achaia: the region to the south that had Corinth as its principal city
- d) Hampden-Keathley wonders if accounts of the Thessalonian conversion & Godly conduct didn't reach Priscilla & Aquila (Akylas) in Rome before they ended up meeting with Paul in Corinth





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2) The news of the Thessalonican change in manner of life was reverberating throughout these two regions . . .

a) 'People were talking everywhere along The Egnatian way, and down south to Achaia that a body of people- (*former idol worshippers*)- would abandon their false Gods, and be filled with the knowledge of the one true God in a joy which no sufferings could chill' [Wm. Kelly]





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3) From this active center of commerce the report peeled forth everywhere. . .

- a) ‘...of a Macedonian assembly (the church at Thessalonika) that renounced Zeus, Hera, Artemis, Apollo and All the rest, **without adopting** the cold, hard legalism and circumcision of the Jews.’ (WM. KELLY)





I Thessalonians 1:9

9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

1) Receiving Paul

- a) Receiving = **eisodos** = exact opposite of exodus. (the way in vs. the way out)
- b) or: Paul's entrance into Thessalonica
- c) We will look more into Paul's reception in next week's (Chap. 2:1-4) lesson

2) Turning to God from idols....

- a) Turning = **epistrephō** = convert = conversion = to turn to; to return to; turn around. A salvation term:
"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" *PETER TO CROWD AT LAME BEGGAR'S HEALING' ACTS 3*
- b) Compare epistrephō (conversion; turning around) to: repenting = **metanoēō** = a change of mind



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3) Turning around to God from idols, cont

- a) Some of the idols of the time: Artemis, Apollo, Nike, Tyche, Aphrodite, Demeter, Kore, Hercules, Poseidon, Zeus, Helios (the Sun), Asklepios, Pan, Dionysos, Hera, Hades, Hermes
- b) The church at Thessalonica was comprised of prominent women (similar to Lydia of Phillipi) of the city and Gentile God-fearers, (attracted to the God of the Jews) & Gentile idolators. (The Jews here seemed to reject Paul; unlike in Berea where they were receptive.). Many times slaves were the converts of Paul.

4) Only God (*Yahweh, Jehovah, the Lord Jesus Christ*) is a living God

- a) “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should **turn** from these [*Zeus & Hermes*] vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. Acts 14:15
- b) Idols are things: created works of man’s hands (& minds), made of silver, gold, stone, wood. Scripture repeated emphasizes this: (Ps: 115:4; 135:15; Is: 2:8,20; 31:7; 42:17, etc.)



I Thessalonians 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1) The 2 infinitives: to Serve (vs. 9) and to Wait (vs. 10)

- a) The Thess. Believers turned (vs. 9) God-ward for the result/purpose of: 1. Serving & 2. Waiting [two present active infinitives]
- b) Our application for today: we too are serve and “**(For our citizenship is in heaven) from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**” [Phil. 3:20]
- c) We serve, and are to continue on serving in the future. And we wait, and are to continue on waiting into the future is the thrust of the grammar in vs. 9 & 10
- d) In II Thess. Epistle: Paul had to address some in the assembly taking ‘waiting’ to an extreme- quitting their jobs and not being productive.
- e) We **now** are to wait “**looking for the blessed hope** and the **appearing/ epiphane-ia** of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;” [Titus 2:13]



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10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

2) Verse 10 is really the crux of the I Thessalonian letter: the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Parousia*). Here is why:

- a) EVERY CHAPTER in I Thes. Has mention of the future coming of Jesus Christ. They are described as: those who: i. ***“wait for his Son from Heaven”*** 1:10; ii. They will be the joy & crown of Paul’s gospel ministry ***at the coming of the Lord*** (2:19); iii. their ultimate sanctification is promised ***when Christ comes*** (3:13). [WALVOORD, OP. CIT. SLIDE 4]
- b) *Parousia*** – to be near; alongside; the presence of a person physically.
- c) Compare Parousia to other words used to describe Christ’s coming for His saints & with His saints:
 - i. *apokalupsis*** (revealing/revelation, uncovering, unveiling); and
 - ii. *Epiphaneia*** (to bring forth into the light; to shine; show forth)



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3) Some Examples of Christ's coming / appearance / revelation:

- a) "... but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the **revelation** (*apokalupsis*) of His glory you may rejoice with exultation." [I PET 4:13]
- b) "... and then shall that Wicked (lawless one) be **revealed** (*apokalyptō*), whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit/ breath(NAS) of his mouth, and shall destroy with the **brightness**(KJ)/**appearance** (*ephiphaneia*) of his **coming** (*parousia*): [II THES. 2:8]



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4) What are the Characteristics of the Rapture?:

- a) It's fast: in a twinkling of an eye, in a moment
- b) Who: the body of believers (both living and sleeping) in the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ who have trusted Christ's Work for their personal salvation. (The Church).
- c) What: **harpazō**: a catching away; up; snatching, plucking from earth
- d) Where: in the clouds; the 1st heaven; the Troposphere (up to 20 mi. above the surface of the earth) at some elevation; the Lord will catch us up there to meet him
- e) When: at any moment from now; it's imminent; it's 'overhanging' like an icicle about to fall: like a thief in the night [I Thes 5:2]; no one knows the day or the hour [Mat. 24]; quickly [Rev 22:20]
- f) No pre-Signs; no warning
- g) Destination: heaven; with 'shall always be with' Him physically from then on.
- h) Purpose: To be with Him forever; be given our reward; fulfilment of the blessed hope; be given the third and final piece of salvation: release from the Sin Nature, from the body of death to new heavenly bodies. Salvation from the presence of sin.
- i) Purpose of Verse 10 above: is deliverance/salvation from the wrath & Day of the Lord to come. (We are not under its pervue/ appointed to it). [I Thes. 5:9]



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES
GOD THE SON: HIS COMING FOR HIS SAINTS

RAPTURE & 2ND COMING ?

CONTRASTS :

RAPTURE

- CHRIST COMES FOR HIS SAINTS
 1 THES 4:13-18; 3:13
- SAINTS GO FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN
 1 THES 4:16,17; 2 THES 2:1
- START OF TRIBULATION (GOD'S WRATH)
 1 THES 5:1-9; 2 THES 2:1-3
- ASLEEP CHURCH SAINTS RESURRECTED
 1 COR 15:20 -23; 15:52,53; 1 THES 4:13-16
- ALIVE CHURCH SAINTS RAPTURED
 1 COR 15:51,52a; 1 THES 4:17
- UNRIGHTEOUSNESS ON EARTH
 2 THES 2:1-12; REV 6-19
- IMMINENT
 1 THES 4:15; 2 THES 2:1-3
- WAS A MYSTERY (NOT REVEALED) IN O.T
 1 COR 15:51,52a
- INITIATES REWARDS TO THE CHURCH
 2 COR 5:10; 1 COR 3:5-17
- SATAN REMAINS ACTIVE
 2 THES 2:1-12

2ND COMING

- CHRIST COMES WITH HIS SAINTS
 REV 19:11-16
- SAINTS GO FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH
 REV 19:14,15
- END OF TRIBULATION (GOD'S WRATH)
 MT 24:29-31; REV 19:11 - 20:3
- O.T SAINTS RESURRECTED
 DAN 12:1,2; REV 20:4:-6
- NO RAPTURE OCCURS
 MT 24:29-31; REV 19:11 - 20:3
- RIGHTEOUSNESS ON EARTH
 ZEPH 1:1-3:20; ZECH 14:1-21; REV 20:1-4
- MANY SIGNS & EVENTS PRECEED
 MT 24:1-28; REV 6-19
- REVEALED IN O.T
 ISA 61:1-3; ZECH 12:9-14; 13:6
- INITIATES JUDGMENT TO THE WORLD
 MT 25:31-46; REV 19:11-21
- SATAN IS BOUND FOR 1,000 YEARS
 REV 20:1-3

I Thessalonians 1:8-10

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“LOOK, WATCH, WAIT, BE READY AND OCCUPY” TILL HE COMES

For these many years, believers have been looking and watching for their Lord from glory. They have believed that, while His coming might not be immediate, nor necessarily in their lifetime, His coming could be very soon. Weary from the presence of sin or in pain from the presence of sickness, in the morning they have said, “Perhaps today!” and in the evening they have whispered, “Perhaps tonight!” They have “loved his appearing,” viewing it as imminent, and so have watched for the return of the Savior. Yet, with it all, they have lived in accord with that other most practical exhortation, “Occupy till I come.” (Luke 19:13)

As Blackstone well says:

True watching is an attitude of mind and heart which would joyfully and quickly turn from any occupation to meet our Beloved, rapturously exclaiming, ‘this is the Lord; we have waited for Him.

THE CASE FOR THE IMMINENT RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH, PT. 2; TIM LAHAYE