



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | February 10

Welcome! Thank you for joining us in studying through Acts!

The book of Acts tells the story of how the Gospel of Jesus spread throughout the world of the first century A.D. — and one man (Paul) was especially instrumental in that effort. Paul not only traveled on multiple journeys speaking the Gospel and starting new churches, but he also wrote letters to many of those new congregations.

The Bible includes 13 of those letters! (Find a chart of all 13 letters [here](#)!) As we continue our study in Acts, our midweek studies occasionally will focus on one of those letters (also called epistles).

Tonight we will be in I Thessalonians, a letter written to the church in Thessalonica. Shortly after Paul was forced out of that city, he traveled to the city of Corinth where he penned this letter. That visit to Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17, during Paul's second missionary journey.

- Think back: What happened in Thessalonica? How did that church begin? Why did Paul leave that city?

Paul was in Corinth at the time of writing to Thessalonica. Overall, Paul is writing to the Thessalonian church to give thanks for them, to clear up some questions they had about Jesus returning to earth, and to also encourage them to pursue holiness in their lives while they wait for Jesus.

Read I Thessalonians 1:2-3.

- Based on these opening verses, how does Paul feel about the church at Thessalonica? What words and phrases stand out to you and why?

We will focus on one passage — I Thessalonians 5:1-11 — that Paul writes to help them (and us) understand how to live as we wait for Jesus to return.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

- Summarize what Paul is trying to convey to the church. What stands out to you? Why?
 - Paul is reminding the church not to speculate about when Jesus will return ("the day of the Lord," verse 2), but rather to be always ready!
 - How often do you think about the return of Jesus? What would you say is your general attitude toward Jesus' return?
 - Some, Paul writes, will be surprised by Jesus' return, claiming "peace and security" (verse 3). What sort of person do you think Paul has in mind? Are there people like this today?
 - What things are you tempted to put your "peace and security" in? What are some reasons or situations that make it so tempting to put our hope in anything other than Jesus?
- Re-read verses 6-8.**
- How does Paul contrast people in the darkness verses people in the light? (*asleep, drunk, unprepared vs. awake, sober, and ready*)
 - Why is "light" an appropriate way to describe Christians?
 - How does Paul expect Christians to live? What does Paul say we should "put on"? How is this possible?
- Finally, re-read verses 9-11.**
- What is the promise in these verses? How does that encourage you today?
 - What is the final instruction Paul gives in verse 11 to Christians, and why does he give it? How can we obey this instruction in our own church and lives?

As Christians, our only hope is in Jesus and our lives should reflect that in the way we live and treat one another as we wait expectantly for His return.

Close in prayer. Thank Jesus that he has given us all we need for salvation. Help us to remember that we are children of the light and to live like that.

KIDS FOCUS

Thessalonians is a letter in the Bible written by a missionary named Paul to a church in the city of Thessalonica.

Find the letter of Thessalonians in your Bible and read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. Is this a happy letter or sad letter? How can you tell? How does Paul feel about the church in Thessalonica? Why?

Paul wanted to write this letter to them tell them he loved them, and to remind them how good Jesus is! Jesus had saved them from death and given them eternal life! And even more: Jesus was someday coming back for them! Good News!

Why do we need Jesus to save us?

What is sin? (*Anything we say, think, or do that breaks God's law*)

- Are you a sinner? Why? What does sin do to us? (*Sin separates us from God forever.*)
- What did Jesus do to save us from sin and death? (*Jesus died on a cross for our sin and came back to life!*)

Do you ever think about Jesus coming back to earth? How does that make you feel? Why?

- Paul told the church of Thessalonica that no one knows when Jesus is coming back, but that we should be excited and ready!
- When Jesus comes back, if we believe in Him, we will live with Him forever!

Close in prayer. Pray that you would know the Good News about Jesus and that you would be so excited to share it with someone!