



The Oaks Baptist Church
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Christian Commitment
A Study in 1 Thessalonians

Date	Lesson	Text
10/21	Introduction to 1 Thess	
10/28	Being Available	1:1-10
11/04	Being Pleasing to God	2:1-12
11/11	Living God's Word	2:13-20
11/18	Sustained Faith	3:1-13
11/25	Godly Life	4:1-12
12/02	Living Hope	4:13-18
12/09	Special Lesson by Jose Cisneros	
12/16	Special Lesson by Jose Cisneros	
01/06	Plan of Salvation	5:1-11
01/13	Call to Commitment	5:12-28
01/20	Review and Summary	

Food for Thought

Getting To Heaven

Jesus paid the penalty for your sins by His death. When you admit you are a sinner and place your faith in Him alone for forgiveness, you will be reconciled to God. Believing Christ died—that's history; believing Christ died for me—that's salvation.

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

(Acts 16:31 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Jun 08, 2012)

Committed to God's Plan of Salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

We need to be realistic concerning spiritual issues, and Scripture provides us with a good dose of the realism that we need. In our text we find **three significant realities** that we must accept. First, we learn that apart from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, every person is under the wrath of God. Paul declared that we (believers) have not been appointed to wrath, implying that unbelievers have been appointed to wrath. In Ephesians 2:3, Paul affirmed that unbelievers are by nature "the children of wrath." Jesus and John the Baptist also declared that God's wrath abides on those who do not believe (John 3:18, 36). We also observe a second reality contained in the text. As certain as the reality of God's wrath toward sinners is, there is a greater reality—salvation from God's wrath. It is possible for those under God's wrath to be rescued from it. How can sinners obtain salvation from God's wrath?

According to our text, **salvation is obtained through our Lord Jesus Christ.** Christ offered Himself as the propitiation (that which turns away the wrath of God) for our sins (Rom. 3:25). We receive salvation through trusting in Christ as our Savior. A third reality that is contained in our text is the reality of divine appointment. God has not appointed the believer to wrath, indicating that He has appointed him to salvation. Human beings often miss appointments in life. However, this is an appointment that will be kept, for God has determined to bring it to pass. What is the particular appointment to wrath that is implied in this passage? There are two possibilities. One obvious time would be at the moment of death, for "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Another possibility would be in the future time of tribulation. Revelation 6:17 refers to "the great day of his wrath." Because the context of I Thessalonians 5:9 deals with this future time, it makes good sense to also include it in the wrath the unbeliever is appointed to experience.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Paul dealt with the question of what happens to believers who die before the rapture of the church. He then had to turn to another question that pertains to the future. It had to do with the Day of the Lord. The Thessalonians were knowledgeable about the Day of the Lord, but they wanted to know something about when that day would arrive. It is natural to want to know something about when an expected event will take place. Paul did not know when the Day of the Lord would come, but he did explain how they should live as believers in the expectation of that coming day. This was more important than knowing precisely when it would occur. **God's plan of salvation for believers includes their deliverance from that period of divine wrath.** However, believers need to anticipate its coming by being alert and sober and by clothing themselves with God's special armor (Eph 6:10-13). Jesus' coming will be like that of a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2,4), and yet there is a great difference between Christ and a thief. The comparison seems to refer to the suddenness and unexpectedness accompanying both arrivals. The thief comes to intrude and steal, whereas Christ will come to snatch up believers, both dead and alive (4:13-18).

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

A PLAN THAT JESUS WILL RETURN (1 THESS 5:1-3)

No need to know when (1)

No need to know when because it is not for us to know the timing of God (Acts 1:7)

No need to know when because no one knows the day or hour of when God decides His coming (Mark 13:32-34)

No need to know when because our timing is not like God's (2 Peter 3:8)

No need to know when because God will reveal what we need to know (Deut 29:29)

The day of the Lord is coming (2)

The Day of the Lord is coming and all in the grave will hear Jesus' voice (John 5:28-29)

The day of the Lord is like a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10-12)

At the day of the Lord judgment occurs and rewards are to be handed out (2 Tim 4:8)

Jesus will raise up His Church on that last day (John 6:39)

God's good work in us will be completed on that day (Phil 1:6)

No one knows about that day or hour of this day (Matt 24:36)

Jesus will drink of the fruit of the vine on that day (Matt 26:29)

We know whom we have believed, and are convinced that He is able to guard what we have entrusted to Him for that day (2 Tim 1:12)

Coming with destruction for the unbeliever (3)

Coming with destruction upon those who are wicked (Ps 73:16-19)

Coming with destruction upon those who are stiff-necked (Prov 29:1)

Coming with destruction upon those who are unprepared (Luke 17:26-29)

Coming with destruction upon those who trouble God's people (2 Thess 1:6-9)

A PLAN THAT BELIEVERS BE READY (1 THESS 5:4-8)

Ready by being children of the light (4-5)

Children of the light have their trust in Jesus (John 12:36)

Children of the light live a life full of goodness, righteousness and truth (Eph 5:8-9)

Children of the light let their light shine before men (Matt 5:14-16)

Children of the light love one another (1 John 2:9-10)

Ready by being watchful (6-7)

We must be watchful because the day is nearer than believed (Rom 13:11)

We must be watchful because we don't know the day or hour (Matt 25:13)

We must be watchful by making the most of every opportunity (Eph 5:15-17)

Ready by putting on the armor of God (8)

Put on the armor of God because the time is near (Rom 13:12)

Put on the armor of God to stand against the devil's schemes (Eph 6:11-18)

Put on the armor of God as weapons to use in the fight with evil strongholds (2 Cor 10:4)

Put on the armor of God as part of my fight of the faith (1 Tim 6:12)

A PLAN THAT FINISHES WHAT HAS BEEN STARTED (1 THESS 5:9-11)

God finishes His appointment for salvation (9-10)

We have an appointment for salvation because we have been made a people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

We have an appointment for salvation because God chose us (Eph 1:3-7)

We have an appointment for salvation because God predestined us (Rom 8:29-30)

We have an appointment for salvation because God announced it (Heb 2:3)

We have an appointment for salvation because it is the goal of our faith (1 Peter 1:9)

Finish by having us edify one another (11)

Edify one another at every opportunity (Rom 14:19)

Edify one another by seeking the good of others (1 Cor 10:23-24)

Edifying one another is one of the Church's duties (Eph 4:10-13)

Edify one another by controlling our speech (Eph 4:29)

Edify one another by praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20)