

SERIES TITLE: ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN

PART ONE: TRANSFORMS THE CHURCH

TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

INTRODUCTION.

The church in the city Thessalonica was started by the Apostle Paul. Although many believed in Jesus (Acts 17), Paul had to run for his life from an angry mob. Concerned about how the young church was doing, Paul sent Timothy to find out. Timothy reported that the church was doing well, but was under a lot of pressure. There were some moral problems, and confusion about the return of Christ. So Paul wrote this first letter of encouragement and instruction. Repeatedly, he tells them how they should live in light of the coming Christ.

DISCUSSION.

Before examining 1 Thess. 1, read how the church got started (Acts 17:1-9).

EXAMINATION.

- What convinced Paul that the Thessalonians were chosen by God? (vv.4-5)
- Without modern transportation, mass communication, or social media how did their faith become so well-known? (v.8)
- What does it mean to wait for Jesus to return (v.10)?

APPLICATION.

- How much of your work for Christ is produced by faith? What is the danger of work that doesn't have its source in your faith in Christ?
- How have you experienced or realized the loving choice of God in your life?
- How do you know if the gospel has come to you in power?
- Who are the people you imitate? Are you modeling faith for anyone? Why or why not?
- What idols have you turned from to serve God? (Idols are whatever I'm hoping will rescue me from a sense of worthlessness.)

- What tempts you to return to them?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?