November 1st, 2026

WHILE WE WAIT

LESSONS FROM THESSALONIANS TIL THE LORD COME

"...and to wait for his Son from heaven..."

~ 1 Thessalonians 1:10

1. Waiting for the Lord
- a. A church faithful to the gospel, respecting Paul, bold, zealous, suffering long.
- b. They loved the Lord, unto personal sacrifice and suffering affliction with joy.
- c. They feared the wrath of God, which motivated them to sound out the word.
- d. They faced trouble, rejection, loneliness, sorrow for loss, distance from other saints.
- *e. "Why so hard?" "Is this God's will?" "Is the Lord punishing us?" "What do we do?"*

2. Chapter 1 – Their Much Affliction
- a. 1:2-4 – They are remembered, not forgotten, they are chosen in the Lord. Eph 1:4
- b. 1:6 – Their affliction (with joy) made them followers of Paul and of the Lord Jesus.
- c. 1:7-9 – Their faith was known, their separation to serve what is living and true.
- d. Jesus raised from the dead; no small part of our duty is to wait for him to return.
- e. *"Then do we with patience wait*" - Rom 8:22-25, *"look for..."*- Phi 3:20, Titus 2:13
- f. 1:10 - *"the wrath to come"*– We are delivered from (not facing) his wrath.
- g. Paul writes this epistle to instruct them to wait for the Lord.

3. Chapter 2 – Work not in Vain
- a. 2:1-3 – Willingness to suffer proves sincerity.
- b. 2:3-6 – We are entrusted of God, to speak pleasing God, not the glory/praise of men.
- c. 2:8 – *"not the gospel of God only...."*- but how to live:
- d. 2:9 - Laboring for money - 2:10 behaving with holy judgment - 2:11 worthy walk.
- e. 2:13 – Their "work of faith" is not vain, it means the word of God works in them.
- f. 2:15-16 – Wrath is come upon them who please not God.
- *g.* 2:17 – *"taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart"*- absent not in heart
- h. 2:19-20 – Paul encourages them with a reunion in the presence of the Lord.
- i. 1 Cor 15:58 – Your labor is not in vain in the Lord – 1 Cor 1:7
- j. We endeavor to see each other, because seeing God's word working is joy/crown.

4. Chapter 3 – Do Not Be Moved
- a. 3:3-4 - While you wait, there will be afflictions, suffering, tribulation.
- b. 3:5 - Hard suffering can tempt you to think it all in vain – give up, lose faith/hope.
- c. Sometimes when we face suffering, we feel as if we are the only ones.
- d. 3:7-9 - Their steadfastness (faithfulness) comforted Paul and renewed hope.
- e. 3:10 – *"perfect that which is lacking"* → establishing their hearts while they wait.

5. Chapter 4 – Do the Will of God
- a. They knew 1 Tim 2:4, they knew about preaching Jesus, but lacked here.
- b. 4:3 – *"...even your sanctification"*– But salvation/justification are most important?
- c. 4:4-7 – Learn to possess your vessel, learn judgment, learn holiness while you wait.
- d. 4:11-12 - Learn to "be quiet"... "do your own business" "walk honestly..."

e. It is dishonest to avoid caring for yourself because you are "serving the Lord" - 1Ti 5:8
f. 4:13-15 - Our work here does not keep those who died from glory.
g. Trust and do the will of God while we wait for when we all be with the Lord forever.

6. Chapter 5 – Live Now with the Lord

a. When we know that there is a greater hope of glory, we can diminish our responsibility
b. 5:1-5 - *"ye are not in darkness"* – Ignorant, time of tribulation, season of the night.
c. 5:6 - *"watch and be sober"* – Live with knowledge, patience, waiting, working.
d. 5:9 - *"not appointed us to wrath"* – We wait in peace with God (not punishment)
e. 5:10 - "*we should live together with him*" – whether we live or die – Phi 1:20, 2:5
f. 5:14-22 – Do these things while ye wait:
    i. 5:14 – Warn, comfort, support, be patient – ministry to each other.
    ii. 5:15 – Judge righteous judgment toward your neighbor.
    iii. 5:16-18 – Rejoice, pray, give thanks.
    iv. 5:19-21 – Walk after the Spirit, heed his words, prove everything.
    v. 5:22 – Remove evil from you in every way.
g. 5:23 – God wants to preserve us blameless til that day. Rom 16:25
    i. We know the Lord is coming. We want it to happen.
    ii. A common oversimplification: trust the gospel, tell others, then glory.
    iii. While we wait, we are taught to attend to God working in us til the Lord come.