



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Thursday, 6/30/2022

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians

TITLE: 1 Thessalonians – Are you ready?

They weren't ready. That would describe my family when I came to pick them up for a quick and expected departure. By nature I am a planner and a fast-paced person. So when I say, "I will be home shortly to pick you up and leave," I mean it. Well, this day, I showed up and they weren't ready for my return and our departure.

Jesus is coming back soon to get His children and judge the world. If you need some encouragement to be ready, then you should read the book of 1 Thessalonians.

The book of 1 Thessalonians was written by the Apostle Paul from the city of Corinth around 50 A.D. Paul was writing this letter after Timothy returned from Thessalonica with a positive report of their faithfulness in the face of a pagan culture and recent persecution.

So why did Paul write this letter? Well, the church was doing very well but like any good parent, Paul wanted to encourage and teach for the future temptations, trials, and opportunities. In this short but powerful letter, Paul thanks the church for their faithfulness. He defends himself against the attacks of some Jewish opposition. He encourages the church to live intentionally and faithfully in the face of temptation and opposition. And Paul wanted to remind the church that Jesus is coming back.

So what's the main thing from 1 Thessalonians? It's to be ready for Christ's return. Most of us live like my family that day. They were given the warning I was coming and we were leaving but they got distracted. I can and the same thing with my family and my faith. How about you?

Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (CSB),

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For we say this to you by a word from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."

Friend, Jesus is coming back soon. His return is imminent. Are you ready? If so, live like it. If not, begin living intentionally for Christ today.

When we are ready for Christ's return, we will win the day.