

JESUS

IS COMING BACK



WK2: A Call to Holiness, Heaven, and Help

04.14.24 | Pastor Randy

SERMON NOTES:

- Paul repeats the Trifecta (I Thessalonians 5:8)
 - The call is complete and rests in the coming of Jesus (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)
 - Paul powerfully presents the balance between life on earth in light of life with Jesus in heaven. The two lives are not independent, but rather dependent, upon each other.
1. A Call to Holiness- Life lived under the control of God, not our control
 - a. Our walk must be pleasing to God (I Thessalonians 4:1)
 - b. Our body must be pure before God (I Thessalonians 4:4)
 - c. Our choices must be properly obedient to Holy Spirit (I Thessalonians 4:7-8)
 2. A Call to Heaven- Focus on light, not darkness
 - a. The call is based on the finished work of Jesus (I Thessalonians 4:14)
 - b. The call is a command (I Thessalonians 4:16)
 - c. The call brings the sheep all together with our Shepherd (I Thessalonians 4:17)
 - d. The call brings life and light, not death and darkness (I Thessalonians 5:10)
 - e. The promise of the call should bring encouragement (I Thessalonians 4:18), I Thessalonians 5:11
 3. Call to Help Others- Helping others is dependent on obedience to Jesus' commands
 - a. Respect elders, train the undisciplined, encourage the weakhearted, be patient (I Thessalonians 5:14)
 - b. Seek to do good always, rejoice always, pray always, give thanks always (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)
 - c. Do not quench the Holy Spirit, do not despise truthful teachings, do not do evil (I Thessalonians 5:19-22)
- The call to holiness, help, and heaven provides focus for followers of Jesus so we will be prepared to see Jesus in strength of spirit rather than shame of self.
 - Our only way to answer the call is through the grace of Jesus (I Thessalonians 5:28)
 - What will your answer to these calls be? Jesus has made the victory possible, but you must answer the call!

JESUS

IS COMING BACK



WK2: A Call to Holiness, Heaven, and Help
04.14.24 | Pastor Randy

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read II Timothy 2:20-26, Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:1-10; I Thessalonians 4:1-12. The word instructions in verse 2 would be better understood as instructions given by a general to a private in the military or a boss to an employee in the business world. It is not a suggestion, but an order expected to be done. Thessalonica was a city of approximately 100,000 people who had Roman influence as well as impact from other parts of the world. The temptation for sexual impurities was not only vast, but also accepted as normal; but NOT according to God's call. Our world has many of the same temptations today. Notice how Paul reminds believers that they will have to answer to God for desecrating their bodies (the abode of His Holy Spirit) with the practices of lust (sin). How does Paul contrast lust with love? What are some areas that lust has been accepted as love by the world? By the Church? How does practice of lust defile our pursuit of love?
2. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. Put into order the events of when the Lord returns. What does it mean that the Lord will bring with him those who have fallen asleep (died)? How does this support II Corinthians 5:8-9? How does that align with the dead in Christ will rise first (hint: spirit versus body)? Notice 4:18 and 5:11 command us to encourage one another with the return of Jesus. Why does Jesus' return often bring fear rather than faith and encouragement? How does walking in light differ from walking in darkness? Why does Paul contrast times and seasons with the day of the Lord as a thief in the night? Read Acts 1:7 and Galatians 4:10. What should our focus be on?
3. Read I Thessalonians 5:12-24. How many commands do you find? How many of them do you struggle following? Which ones are easier for you? Now look at each command and provide other verses or thoughts that make each one more clear and easier to follow:

Respect church elders	Help the weak	Pray always
Esteem elders in love	Be patient with everyone	Give thanks always
Be at peace with believers	Do not repay evil for evil	Do not quench Holy Spirit
Discipline the undisciplined	Seek to do good always	Do not despise truthful teachings
Encourage the fainthearted	Rejoice always	Abstain from evil
4. Read I Thessalonians 5:23-28. The conclusion of any letter reveals the heart of the author in writing the letter. Paul is wanting the believers in Thessalonica to follow Jesus by the leading of the Holy Spirit for the glory of the Father so it produces blessings among the family of God. How does grace make all of this possible? When you think of your church family, does peace or problems come to mind first? When we deal with problems in God's way, it always brings peace. What do you need to correct in order to obey the call of God so others see Jesus through you? May Journey Church, as a small part of THE CHURCH, help others follow Jesus rather than hinder their pursuit!