Faithful in Affliction!

September 12, 2021 – 1 Thess. 1:1-10 Pastor Jon Pickens



Understanding Thessalonica

- 1. The church was experiencing severe **affliction** because their faith in Jesus.
 - a. Internal Clues:
 - b. **External** Clues:
- 2. Paul seeks to encourage this church who remained **faithful** to God in their affliction.
 - a. Paul's fear was that they would **turn** away from the faith because of affliction.
 - b. Paul was encouraged to hear of their **faith** and **love** despite their affliction.

Understanding Paul's Approach to this Letter

1. The **Structure** of the Letter:

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
He commends them	He reminds them of	He shares his fear,	He urges them to	He calls them to
for their faith.	his own sufferings,	joy, and desire to	continue to walk in	keep watch for the
	motives, and love for	see them face to	holiness until the	Day of the Lord so
	them.	face.	coming of Jesus.	that they may be
				found holy when that
				day comes.

- 2. The Common **Themes** of the Letter:
 - a. Paul speaks about the **coming** of Jesus and His **wrath**.
 - b. Paul's desire to see them **blameless** at the coming of Jesus.

What Does a Faith-Filled Church Look Like?

- 1. A faith-filled church is turned **by** God! (1 Thessalonians 1:2-6)
- 2. A faith-filled church turns **to** God! (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)
- 3. A faith-filled church turns **others** to God (1Thessalonians 1:7-8)

Questions

- 1. Why was Paul so concerned for the church in Thessalonica?
- 2. Why would it be so tempting to give up on faith if you were facing affliction?
- 3. Why do our motives for practicing our Christian faith matter so much?
- 4. What are some of the idols in our culture that we need to pay attention to so that we do not worship them?
- 5. What is the wisdom behind serving God while waiting for His return? What does that look like for God's people? What does that look like for you?
- 6. What was your biggest take-a-way from the message this morning?

Next Steps: September Reading Plan (Week 2)

Day One: 1 Cor. 15-16 Day Two: 2 Cor. 1-2 Day Three: 2 Cor. 3-4 Day Four: 2 Cor. 5-6 Day Five: 2 Cor. 7-8 1 Thess. 4:17 "will be caught up"

harpagésometha – It means to be snatched away or taken away. In Latin, this Greek word is translated rapturo, which is why we refer to this event as the rapture.

September Scripture Memory:

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

-1 Cor. 13:4-7 (ESV)

What was your big take-a-way from the message this morning?