## **Faithful in Affliction!**

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



## **Understanding Thessalonica**

The church was experiencing severe  a Clues:		pecause their faith in	n Jesus.	
b	Clues:			
2. Paul seeks to encourage this church who remained to God in their affliction.				
a. Paul's fear was that they would away from the faith because of affliction.				
b. Paul was encouraged to hear of their			_ and despite their affliction.	
Understanding Paul's Approach to this Letter				
1. The	of the Lette	r:		
Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
He commends them for their faith.	He reminds them of his own sufferings, motives, and love for them.	He shares his fear, joy, and desire to see them face to face.	He urges them to continue to walk in holiness until the coming of Jesus.	He calls them to keep watch for the Day of the Lord so that they may be found holy when that day comes.
2. The Common of the Letter:				
a. Paul speaks about the of Jesus and His				<u></u> .
b. Paul's desire to see them at the coming of Jesus.				
What Does a Faith-Filled Church Look Like?				
1. A faith-filled church is turned God! (1 Thessalonians 1:2-6)				
2. A faith-filled church turns God! (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)				
3. A faith-filled church turns 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?