

KEEPING THE FAITH

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Pastor Alan Dionson

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INTRO:

A. WAIT (v. 1-2)

1. The signs of Christ's return
2. The suddenness of Christ's return

B. WATCH (v. 3-7)

1. Watching but being careless
2. Watching but being cautious

C. WORK (v. 8)

1. Work on your self-control
2. Work your faith
3. Work your love
4. Work your hope

D. WALK (v. 9-10)

1. To live is in Christ
2. To die is with Christ

E. WORSHIP (v. 11)

1. The essence of worship
2. The effect of worship

CONCLUSION

Table Talk

Overview

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church was written to encourage them to persist in righteous living as they kept the return of Jesus at the forefront of their minds. Paul highlighted the need for living in a way that pleases God just before discussing Jesus' return. By having a right relationship with God, believers who are alive at the return of Jesus will rise to Him rather than suffer God's anger and the consequences of the Day of the Lord. Paul's instructions are equally meaningful to us today as we wait with anticipation for the return of our King.

1. Have you ever waited on something with anticipation: a package, a person, a special event, or even a promotion at work? What was the hardest part about waiting? What emotions did you experience?

2. How can Jesus' soon return encourage us to reprioritize how we live everyday life?

3. Do you wait for the day of the Lord's return with excitement or anxiety?

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.
 - * Is there a specific loved one you are looking forward to seeing again on the day of the Lord's return?

 - * Who in your life needs to be reminded of this hope?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1–4.
 - * Can you recall a specific prediction made about the return of the Lord in your lifetime?

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:5–11.
 - * Practically, what does it look like to stay alert and clear-headed?

 - * How does wearing the armor of faith and love enable us to be ready for the day of the Lord's return?