

Still Ready for Jesus to Return – 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 – October 20th, 2019

- I want to talk with you today about the Lord's return for His church and the importance of being ready and staying ready as well.
- The reason being is that for many who thought the Lord would have come back by now are beginning to lose hope and give up.
- Enter our text today, where Paul in writing to this church, reveals three ways that we can be and stay ready for Jesus to return.

1. Don't lose your faith in the Lord (Verse 8)

8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

- What's interesting to me about what he says to them here is that in the verse prior he tells them they had become role models.
- So much so, that they had become known everywhere there in the Greek peninsula and there was really nothing more to say.
- The question becomes one of what they were known for and such a great example of, and the answer is that it was their faith.

2. Turn from sin and turn to the Lord (Verse 9)

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

- Here Paul goes on to commend them for how they had turned from the sin of idolatry, and turned to the true and living God.
- Not only had they turned to the Lord, they were also serving the Lord, and the news of this had spread throughout the region.
- I don't know if it's possible to overstate the importance of being right with the Lord, in order that we may be ready for the Lord.

3. Be ready for the coming of the Lord (Verse 10)

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

- What Paul says here is interesting for a number of reasons, chief of which is that he is talking about a pre-tribulation rapture.
- This because, we will be taken out of this world and rescued prior to the wrath that is coming upon the Christ rejecting world.
- Another reason this is interesting has to do with what Paul is saying about our waiting for Jesus to come back and rescue us.

- As one commentator noted, the idea of waiting for Jesus to return and rescue us from the coming wrath doesn't imply apathy.
- Rather, it has the idea of a pregnant woman waiting for her child to come and as she does, she readies herself and the nursery.
- In other words, we don't just sit idly by as we wait, we are busy doing what needs to be done and get ready for when He comes.

- I'll close with a question that I think we would all do well to consider as it relates to our remaining ready for the Lord to return.
- Am I living my life in such a way that I am as ready for the rapture today, as I would still be if it were not ten years from today?
- Just because He hasn't come back yet doesn't mean that He's not coming back soon, which is why we occupy till He comes.