

# ANTICIPATE!

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN A STUDY THROUGH 1 THESSALONIANS

## A Great Church 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1

**Acts 17:1-9 (ESV)** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scripture <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." <sup>4</sup> And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. <sup>5</sup> But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup> And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." <sup>8</sup> And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup> And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (ESV)** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. <sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Some Background....**

### Paul Says Hello...

**1 Thessalonians 1:1 (ESV)** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

1. What was Paul communicating with the word **GRACE**?
2. What was Paul communicating with the word **PEACE**?

These two concepts together bring relationship transformation.

### What relationships are transformed?

1. Our relationship with **GOD**.
2. Our relationship with **JESUS**.
3. Our relationship with **OTHERS**.

### Why Was The Church In Thessalonica A Great Church?

1. Because they had a great **WORK OF FAITH**.
2. Because they were devoted to **LABORING IN LOVE**.
3. Because they had **STEADFASTNESS OF HOPE**.

### What Motivated Them To Turn From Idols And To Serve The Living God?

1. They believed Jesus **RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD**.
2. They believed Jesus **WAS RETURNING FROM HEAVEN**.

**Can Someone Look At You And Be Thankful For Your Work Of Faith, Labor Of Love And Steadfastness Of Hope?**

**Are You Actively Watching For Jesus To Return From Heaven?**