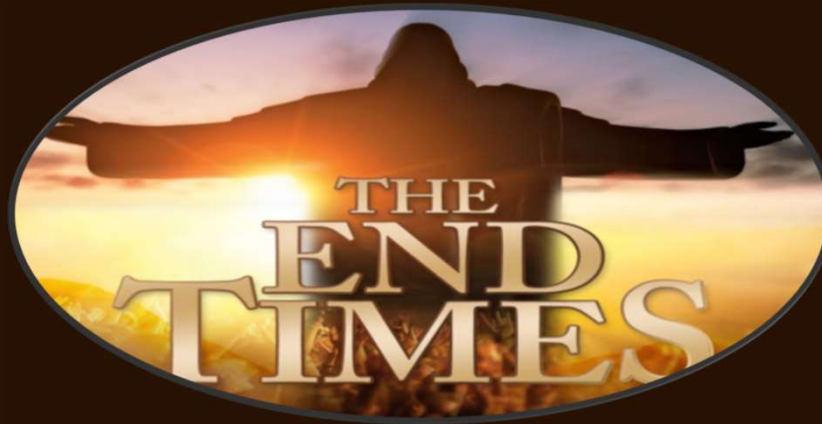


# SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



**Practical Heavenly Mindedness**

**SOLID ROCK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

8000 Derry Street (Rear)

Harrisburg PA 17111

1

## Study Schedule Apr – May 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson Title</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>
4/15/2020	The Last Days Are Here!	Acts 2
4/22/2020	He Will Come Back	John 14:1-27
4/29/2020	Waiting With Hope	Matt. 25:1 -13; 31 – 46
5/6/2020	God's Timing—and Ours	Joel 2:12-32
5/13/2020	The Future of the Human Person	1 Cor. 15:12-28, 35-44, 58
5/20/2020	Investing in Heaven	1 Thess. 4:13—5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6-18
5/27/2020	Going to the Lamb's Wedding	Rev. 7:9-17; 19:1-10; 21:1-9



2

## This Week's Lesson – May 20, 2020

### The End Times:

#### Practical Heavenly Mindedness

#### Lesson 6: Investing in Heaven

1 Thess. 4:13—5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6-18



3

## "What is Christian Eschatology/Last Days?"

**Eschatology** - is the study of what the Bible says is going to happen in the end times.

**Last Days** – Refers to the period of Grace (after the death, burial & resurrection of Christ) before the final Judgement.



**End Times** - The series of events – leading up to the Final Judgement.

4

## Introduction To I & II Thessalonians

**Author:** The Apostle Paul (I Thess. 1:1)

**Date of Writing:** Approx. A.D. 50/51 - 52.

**Purpose of Writing:** Paul wrote to clear up misconceptions about the Day of the Lord and to comfort them during persecution.

### Practical Application:

- When Christ returns, we will be together with Him (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- Believers won't receive God's (1 Thess. 5:8-9).
- How to walk out the Christian life (1 Thess. 4-5).
- It also exhorts us to pray and to work for what we have.

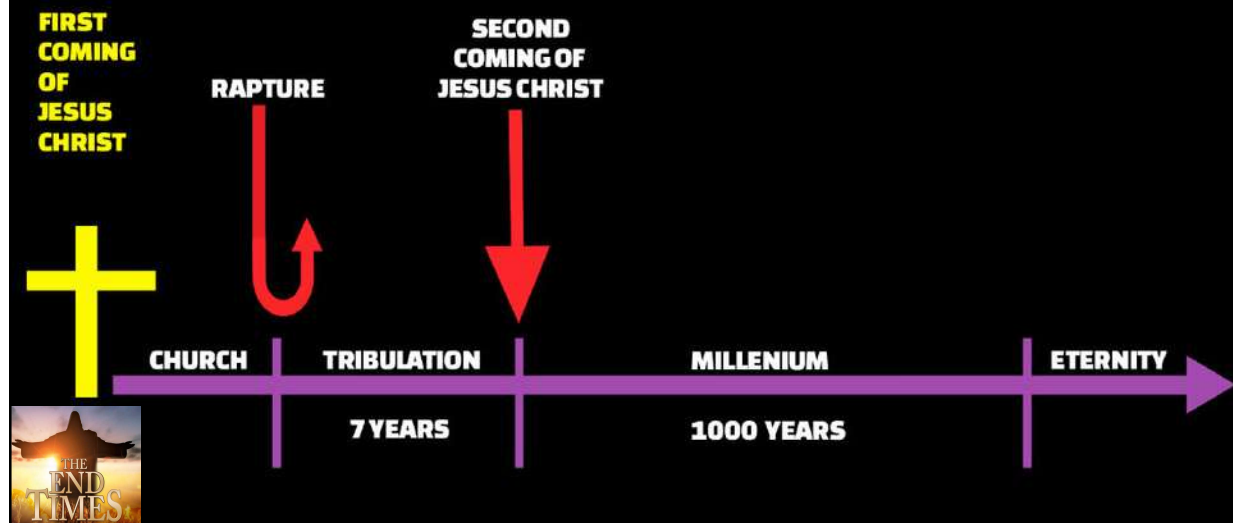


The Apostle Paul



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## THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING



6

# Read 1 Thess. 4:13—5:11

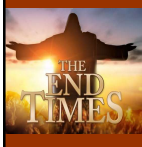
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## I Thessalonians 4:13 – 15 (NKJV)

**13** Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

**14** For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

**15** According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.



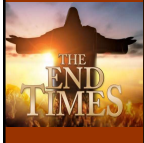
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### **I Thessalonians 4:16 – 18 (NKJV)**

**16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

**18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.**



9

### **I Thessalonians 5:1 – 4 (NKJV)**

**1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,**

**2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.**

**3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.**

**4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.**



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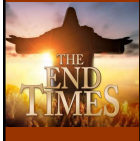
### **I Thessalonians 5:5 – 8 (NKJV)**

**5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.**

**6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.**

**7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.**

**8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.**



11

### **I Thessalonians 5:9 – 11 (NKJV)**

**9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.**

**11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**



12

1. How does Paul comfort those whose loved ones died before the Lord's return (4:13-18; 5:10)?

- **Reality of Grief (4:13)** It's okay to grieve our loss, but we grieve with hope that we will see them again.
- **Reminder in Gospel (4:14)** The Gospel lets us know that Jesus conquered death – we will as well.
- **Revelation of God's Power/Prophecy (4:15 – 17; 5:10)** Jesus will return with Resurrection power.
- **Rest in God's Promises (4:18)** We can rest and encourage each other in His promises.



13

2. What further information does Paul give us about the timing of the Lord's return (5:1-11)?

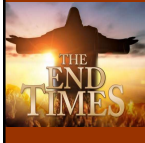
- **Certainty (v.1)** - We know that the Lord is coming (He said so in His Word).
- **Mystery (vv. 2-3)** – While we know He's coming, no one knows when...
- **Responsibility (vv. 4-8; 11)** – To be lights for the Lord in this dark world – encouraging one another.
- **Security vv. 9 – 10)** – In Christ, we know that we are safe from the wrath of God against sin.



14

3. Why would this message be encouraging rather than threatening to Paul's friends in Thessalonica (4:18; 5:11)?

- **To Be Thankful** – When we accept and believe in who Jesus is and what He has done, our motive is Thankfulness.
- **To Be Purposeful** - The coming of Jesus for the saved gives our lives meaning and purpose.
- **To Be Hopeful** – We have hope in Christ – not just in this life, but in death and in the life to come.



15

4. What will it mean for you to be “alert” and “self-controlled” (5:6)?

### **Awake/Alert**

- Understanding my life from God's perspective.
- Praying God's Word and Will.
- Worship/Service/Evangelism.

### **Sober/Self-Controlled**

- Living with discipline/faithfulness.
- Not being led by my feelings, but by His Word/Spirit.
- Using my time and resources for God.



16



## **Read 2 Thess. 3:6-18**

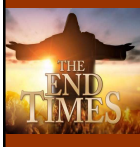
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### **II Thessalonians 3:6 – 8 (NKJV)**

**6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.**

**7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you,**

**8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.**



18

### **I Thessalonians 3:10 – 13 (NIV)**

**9** not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

**10** For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

**11** We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

**12** Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

**13** And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.



19

### **II Thessalonians 3:14 – 18 (NIV)**

**14** Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed.

**15** Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

**16** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

**17** I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

**18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.



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## II Thessalonians 3:14 – 18 (NIV)

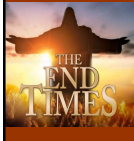
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21

5. How does Paul answer the argument that if Jesus is coming back tomorrow there is no point in working today?

- Work is Ministry (5:6 -9) - Paul and his partners gave the example of work being a part of their Ministry.
- Work is Mandatory (5:10 – 11) – Paul lays down the rule that we should not be lazy (moochers) but working for our needs.
- Work Is Missional (5:12 – 13) – Work provides and examples to others in the Church and in the world.



22

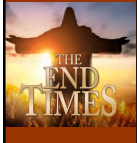
6. Why does Paul make such a strong example (3:9) and strong teaching (3:14-15) regarding work to end times living?

**Example:**

- To show what life looks like for those who are truly ready for the Lord's return.

**Teaching:**

- To jar us into action and seriousness about how to be in the world and not of the world.
- To challenge one another to work with sensibility for the sake of the gospel



23

7. In what ways are both idleness and workaholism symptoms of moral sloth and spiritual disease?

**Idleness**

- Laziness – a feeling that everything is owed to them.
- Greed – wanting what others have instead of getting our own.
- Selfishness – Not willing to share what they have for their benefit or the benefit of others.



24

7. In what ways are both idleness and workaholism symptoms of moral sloth and spiritual disease?

### Workaholism

- Try to find their identity and fulfillment in their work.
- Are a burden, requiring people to constantly adjust their lives and priorities.
- Have nothing to give to those they live with (except money)—no affection, joy, friendship, companionship, or love.



25

8. In light of this study how will you use your daily activities to invest in the Lord's coming and in heaven?

- Living with Anticipation – having an awareness of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ – joy and hopefulness.
- Seeing Work as Vocation – My job is an opportunity to give Glory to God and point others to Christ.
- Gospel Participation – Giving of my time talent and treasures to proclaim and promote the Gospel.



26

### *Keys For Living*

- As it relates to the 2nd Coming of Christ, we need to work as if Jesus may continue to tarry but be ready to go as if He will return at any moment.
- We can take comfort that believers who have died are with the Lord and will return with Him - their glorified bodies rising first as we are caught together at the Rapture of the Church.
- As Christ's disciples, While we are in the world God gives us the opportunity and privilege to use our time and resources to glory Him.



27

**LOOKING FOR THAT  
BLESSED HOPE,**

AND THE GLORIOUS  
APPEARING OF THE  
GREAT GOD AND OUR  
SAVIOUR

**JESUS CHRIST;**

TITUS 2:13 (KJV)

THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

28