

Letters From Heaven



Lesson 6

Being Ready When Jesus Comes Again

Theme: Faith—Looking forward to Jesus’ return

Memory Verse

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- 2 1 Thessalonians 4:9-18
- 3 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- 4 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
- 5 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, 13-17

Jesus came to the world to die for our sins so we can be God’s people now and forever. Jesus will come again to take His people with Him to heaven, but only God knows when this will happen. Some people will be alive when Jesus comes again, and many people will have already died. But it does not matter. Jesus will take with Him everyone who obeys Him. Since Jesus is coming again, we need to be ready. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about being ready when Jesus comes back.

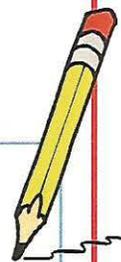
After this lesson you should be able to ...

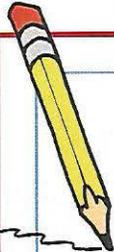
- Define “steadfast.”
- Describe what the Thessalonians did when they learned about God.
- List three ways Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to behave.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul was thankful for three things about the Thessalonians. Write them here.

The Thessalonians turned from _____
_____ to serve _____ and to
wait for _____.





Turning to God

Paul thanked God for some great things the Thessalonian Christians were doing. He mentions their work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope. Think about what this means. They worked for God because they had faith. They labored or worked hard because God loved them and they loved Him. They were steadfast or kept obeying God because they hoped to go to heaven. We

should be people who do work of faith and labor of love and are steadfast with hope.

The Thessalonians had not always been this way. At one time, they did not know God, and they served idols. But they learned God is the only true God. They learned about God's Son Jesus. When they learned and believed these things, they changed their lives. Paul was proud of them because they turned from idols to serve God and to be ready when Jesus comes again.

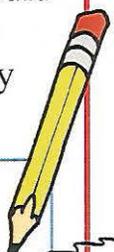
Living for God

In the New Testament, walking is not just putting one foot in front of the other. It is how we behave and how we live. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about how to walk and please God. Paul was thankful that the Thessalonians were walking in a way that pleased God, but he wanted them to keep doing this.

Near the end of 1 Thessalonians, Paul lists some attitudes and actions that are for all Christians everywhere and anytime. Christians are to work at getting along with each other and being at peace. We are to help and support each other in serving God. We should learn to be patient and always try to do what is good. We should pray, be happy, and be strong. Wherever we are and whomever we are with, we should decide to walk this way and to live for God. This is the way to be ready when Jesus comes back.

Being Ready

Paul described Jesus' return as being like a thief in the night. Think about this. If you knew a robber was coming to your home to steal your television at 2 PM next Friday, what would you do? You would be ready. You may have a policeman with



1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

When Jesus comes again, He will come like a) a king in a motorcade, b) a thief in the night, c) a movie star in the spotlight.

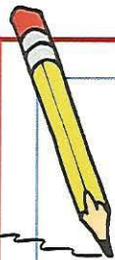
Being "sons of light" means that we are a) happy, b) alert, c) lazy.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

Cross out the wrong answers.

Paul told the Thessalonians to make it their ambition to a) attend to their own business, b) meddle in other people's business, c) lead a quiet life, d) have as much fun as possible, e) let others' do their work, f) work with their hands.

When Jesus comes again, His people, whether alive or dead will meet Him a) at church, b) in the ground, c) in the air.



2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Match the following:

Thessalonian Christians

Marvel at Jesus

People who don't know God

Glorified in His people

Jesus Christ

Eternal destruction

Believers

Persecuted

you to catch the robber. You wouldn't just let him come in and take your television. But we all know it does not happen this way. A robber comes at a time no one knows, so we must protect ourselves at all times. We have locks on our doors and windows, and neighbors often watch out for each other.

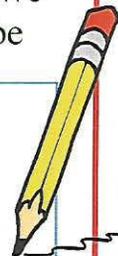
Jesus will come at a time no one knows or expects, but He is coming. Sadly, many people don't care about God.

They don't learn or follow God's Word. But this is a big mistake, because when Jesus comes back he will take only His followers with Him. Some people will not be ready. We will not be able to rush out and get ready. But if we follow Jesus everyday, then we'll be ready whenever He comes again.

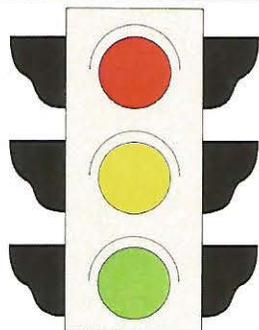
2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, 13-17

True or False? Jesus has already come a second time.

God calls people to Himself through the a) gospel, b) telephone, c) voice from heaven.



I try to be ready for Jesus.

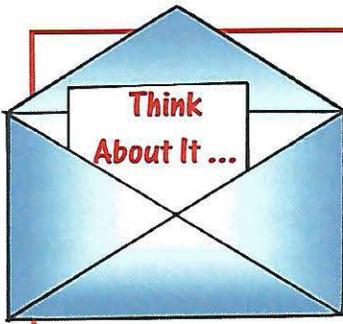


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — sometimes

Yellow — most of the time

Green — all the time



You received word that a ring of robbers is working your neighborhood. Their plan is to work the houses on your street next Tuesday at 10 AM when most people are at work or school. How will you prepare for this?

How can we prepare for Jesus' return?

Write the names of the twelve apostles.



Which book of the New Testament is about a runaway slave who becomes a Christian?

On a map inside the back cover, place a square around the city of Caesarea Philippi.