



Back To The Future

SERIES SYNOPSIS: **HOLD THE LINE**

The church in Thessalonica was disoriented by hardship, confused about their future, and perplexed by the false teaching all around them. They longed for Jesus to return and needed comfort in the hard times they were facing. The Apostle Paul calls them to hold the line and remain steadfast on the gospel. Paul's challenge is the same for us today. God wants us to stay confident and hopeful because the truths of the gospel are unshaken. In this series, we'll study through the first letter of Thessalonians and learn together how to hold the line in a world where the line is always changing.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Acts 17](#)

*What does this Scripture tell us about God? *What does this Scripture tell us about ourselves (people)?
*What does this Scripture tell you do? *Who is someone I can share/discuss this with?

Five Markers that Define a Person of the Future:

1. Full of the _____ ([1 Thess. 1:5-6; 5:19](#))
2. _____ ([1 Thess. 4:3, 7](#))
3. Living and loving in _____ ([1 Thess. 4:9; 5:13-15](#))
4. _____ for God's Kingdom ([1 Thess. 1:2-3; 4:10-12](#))
5. Hope and wait for Jesus' _____ ([1 Thess. 4:16-18; 5:11](#))

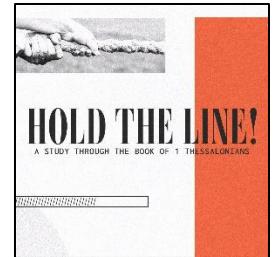
Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: Hold The Line

Message: Back To The Future

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: September 19, 2021



Connect (30min)

1. 3 Keys From Summer 2021

- a. What was 1 *Key Event/Highlight* from your Summer experience?
- b. Where was 1 *Key Place* for you this Summer?
- c. Who was 1 *Key Person* in your life this Summer?

2. Autumn Outlook

What is one opportunity/event/challenge that you are looking forward to this fall season?

3. Open Up

*Bring your Bible to Life Group each week. We primarily use the NLT version in our messages & guides.

 **Read [1 Thessalonians 5:5-11](#).** One of the primary reasons we connect in Life Groups is to *encourage and build each other up*; thank you for investing in this journey together. **Leader – Open Up in Prayer.**

Message Discussion (45min)

*We encourage you to participate in the discussion, in the Bible reading, and in prayer – as you feel comfortable.

1. 1 THESSALONIANS

Have you ever read [1 Thessalonians](#)? Who do you know about this New Testament letter?

Who wrote it? Who was it originally written to? Where did they live? Have you ever been there?

Did you learn anything else about Thessalonians from Sunday's message?

2. REVIEWS & REPUTATIONS

- a. How do reviews (online, etc.) affect the businesses they reflect?
- b. Do you post or read online reviews? Do they impact how you interact with that business?
- c. What does it take to create a reputation? Discuss.
- d. What power does the church's reputation have? *In Thessalonica? In Chilliwack?*

3. **Read [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)**

- a. What does this passage tell us about God?
- b. What does this passage tell us about us?

4. **Read [1 Thessalonians 1:1-3](#)**

- a. Paul mentions *three specific things* that stand out about the Thessalonians. What are they? (see v.3)
- b. What was the significance of these three things?
- c. What are some practical ways that the church can live out these three things? Discuss.

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

*Paul praises the way the Thessalonian church has let God work in and through it. He says that the Gospel came with more than just words it came with power.

- a. How did this power impact and change the Thessalonians?
- b. How has this power changed your life?
- c. How do you know when something is more than just words?

*Paul lets the Thessalonians know that God's presence is seen through this community of His people. They now have a reputation that speaks for them.

- d. What did they do to build this reputation?
- e. Why do you think word spread so widely about the way God had changed these people?

6. FIVE MARKERS

*Shawn mentioned Five Markers that Defined a Person of the Future.

Look them over, read the scriptures, and share which marker or markers connected with you the most and why.

- a. *Full of the Holy Spirit* ( [1 Thess. 1:5-6, 5:19](#))
- b. *Holy* ( [1 Thess. 4:3,7](#))
- c. *Living and loving in community* ( [1 Thess. 4:9; 5:13-15](#))
- d. *Work hard for God's Kingdom* ( [1 Thess. 1:2-3; 4:10-12](#))
- e. *Hope and wait for Jesus' return* ( [1 Thess. 4:16-18; 5:11](#))

Application & Prayer (15min)

***THESSALONIAN EXAMPLE:** Each one of us contribute to the reputation and testimony of our local church.

- a. What is one thing you can imitate from the Thessalonians that can help build up your church's reputation in its community?
- b. What would it look like for you to embody the future that God has for us in your present life right now?

***THIS WEEK:**

- a. **Pray** for *faith, hope and love* to be clearly seen and defined in each of our lives this week.
- b. **Watch** the 7min [Overview of 1 Thessalonians](#) from *The Bible Project* YouTube Channel.
- c. **Read &/or Listen** through [1 Thessalonians](#) as many times as you can this week.

***PRAY:** In response to Sunday's Message and our discussion together how can we pray for you today?
Share & Pray for one another.

***NEXT LIFE GROUP MEETING:** DATE/TIME/LOCATION/SNACK