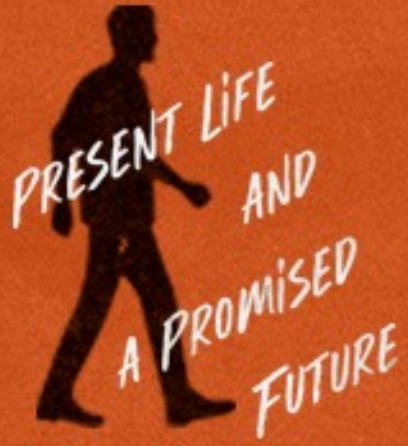


PRESENT LIFE  
AND  
A PROMISED  
FUTURE



THESSALONIANS

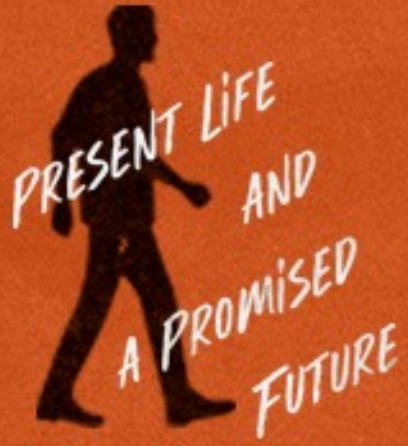




# Paul's Concern

“That is why when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.” - 1 Thessalonians 3:5 NLT





# The True and Living Faith of a New Testament Church

- Genuine faith always produces a change in the way we live
- “Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. **And this word continues to work in you who believe.**” - 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NLT
- The Thessalonians mentality: “If this is true, I must DO”





# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

1 This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God give you grace and peace.

2 We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.





# 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

4 We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. 5 For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.





# 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

6 So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. 7 As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia. 8 And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it,...

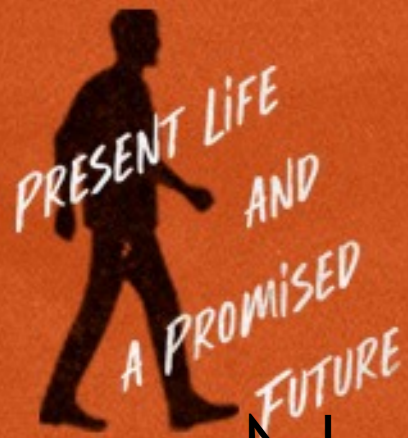




# 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

9 for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. 10 And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.



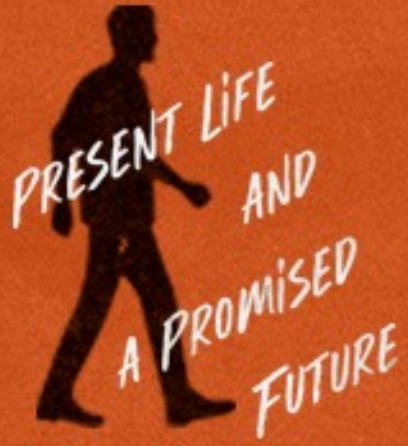


# What Does The True and Living Faith of a New Testament Church Look Like?

If this is true, I must DO...

1. Live Prayerfully
2. Listen to the Holy Spirit
3. Let the Word of God Work in You
4. Leave your Functional "Saviors" and Look Forward to Jesus' Return





# Live Prayerfully

“We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.  
3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1 Thess. 1:2-3 NLT

- Turn your eyes from yourself to the well being of others
- Pray in real time!
- Let people know you're interceding on their behalf





# Listen to The Holy Spirit

“...for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.” - 1 Thess. 1:5b

- Cultivate the discipline of listening (in worship, in prayer, in the Word)
- Allow the Spirit to assure you of the Father's love (God is greater than our hearts! 1 John 3:20)



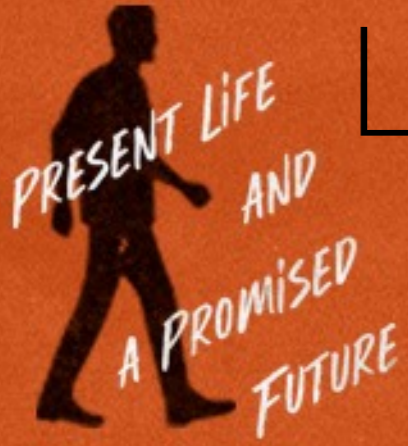


# Let the Word of God Work in You

“6 So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you... And this word continues to work in you who believe.” - 1 Thess. 1:6a; 2:13b NLT

- Don't “identify with” the Word, or church, or “Christian things,” but commit yourself to deeply knowing God's Word that you may know God!





# Leave Your Functional “Saviors” And Look forward to Jesus’ Return

“...how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. 10 And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God’s Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead.” - 1 Thess. 1:9b-10a NLT

- Keep revisiting those things which hold you back from fully living for Jesus, and “throw off” all that trips you up (Hebrews 12:1-3)
- “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;” - 1 Peter 1:13 NKJV





# If This is True, I Must Do

1. Live Prayerfully
2. Listen to the Holy Spirit
3. Let the Word of God Work in You
4. Leave your Functional “Saviors” and Look Forward to Jesus’ Return