



Message Series Guide

Living Hope

Part 5 – Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

I Thessalonians 4:9-18

Albert Einstein once said, “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” These words remind us that no one can change yesterday. Therefore, it’s important that learn from our mistakes, we live for today and hold onto hope for tomorrow. The Thessalonians were grieved and concerned about the future coming of the Lord and how it was going to affect their loved ones who had died. To help strengthen them, Paul offers some practical advice about how to live for today, while putting hope in Christ’s return for tomorrow.

READ:

I Thessalonians 4:9-18 • Romans 5:5 • Matthew 24:30 • Mark 13:26 • Luke 21:27

Revelation 22:8-12 • John 14:1-3 • I Corinthians 15:51-52 • Philippians 3:20 • Titus 2:13

- How does the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit enable us to love one another genuinely? Given Paul’s praise of the Thessalonians’ love for one another, why do you think he told them to love one another even more? How do we know what love is? How do we know how to love one another?
- What does leading a “quiet life” mean? How does this apply to your life and work? Why did some of the Thessalonian believers quit their jobs? What effect did this have on their church and their witness?
- What does Paul mean by “mind your own affairs?” What is the danger of gossip and meddling?
- Why were the Thessalonians concerned about their loved who had died? What argument does Paul use to convince the Thessalonians that their loved ones will not miss Christ’s return?
- What do you think Paul meant by a “word/revelation from the Lord (v15)?” In your opinion, are verses 15-18 more “pastoral” or “eschatological” (dealing with end times)? Explain your answer.
- What does Paul discuss in verses 14-17 that would enable the Thessalonians to move from sorrow to hope?

DISCUSS:

- How can you tell if the members of a church genuinely love one another? What happens when love for one another is absent in a church? What are some practical ways followers of Christ can love one another genuinely?
- What are some specific ways Christians can work diligently with their hands in such a way that their work points to Christ? Give some practical ways that you can apply Paul’s instructions to love genuinely, work diligently and live purposefully to your work, school and leisure activities.
- Does the thought of the end times cause you concern or fear? Why or why not? How does Paul explanation of Jesus’ return give us hope today?
- The Bible speaks clearly and forcefully about the return of Christ. In your opinion, do most Christians live as though this were true? Why or why not? How should we live in light of Christ’s imminent return? Gives some specific examples.

PRAY:

Pray that you will be intentional to live for today, while putting hope in the blessed return of Jesus Christ.

RESPOND:

List ways you can love genuinely, work diligently and live purposefully this week with a hopeful mindset.