

Living in the End Times -Outline

I. Introduction: Are We Living in the Last Days?

A. Current world conditions raising questions

1. Wars and conflict
2. Natural disasters
3. National division
4. Rise of technology and AI

B. Historical context: The Thessalonian church asked the same questions 2,000 years ago

C. Series introduction: "Living in the Last Days" from 1 Thessalonians

II. Background of 1 Thessalonians

A. Written around 50 AD during Paul's second missionary journey

B. Context of Thessalonica

1. Major port city with 200,000 people
2. Paul preached for three weeks
3. New believers faced persecution

C. Paul's letter written to encourage and steady their faith

III. Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A. Paul's gratitude for the Thessalonians

B. Their faith, love, and hope

C. Their transformation and witness

D. Their turning from idols to serve God

E. Their waiting for Jesus' return

IV. Main Point: Three Actions for Living in the Last Days

A. Turn (Verse 9)

1. Definition: Turning from idols to God

2. Ancient idolatry in Thessalonica

3. Modern idols

a. Success and achievement

b. Money and comfort

c. Relationships

d. Self (image, truth, wants)

4. 2 Timothy 3:1-5: Characteristics of last days

5. Repentance: Turning toward the highest

6. Application: Turn from fear, pride, unforgiveness, bitterness

B. Serve (Verse 9)

1. Called to serve the "living and true God"

2. Greek word "douleuō": Complete loyalty

3. Distinction between belief and service

4. Salvation happens in a moment; serving happens daily

5. Surrender of plans to God

6. Now is the time to serve

C. Wait (Verse 10)

1. Active, faithful, expectant waiting

2. Illustration: Preparing for guests

3. Living with daily expectation of Jesus' return

4. Being found faithful when He comes

5. Alert, prayerful, and ready

V. Four Practical Questions for Living Ready

Question 1: Have I forgiven those who hurt me?

A. Matthew 6:15: Importance of forgiveness

B. Forgiveness sets you free

- C. May not require face-to-face reconciliation
- D. Practical exercise: Writing and burning forgiveness letter

Question 2: Have I shared my faith with those who need Jesus?

- A. Obligation to share Christ
- B. Not optional for Jesus followers
- C. Tell your story
- D. Explain the difference Jesus makes

Question 3: Am I more focused on this world than eternity?

- A. Easy to get caught up in temporal concerns
- B. All worldly things will pass away
- C. Living for eternity vs. fleeting moments

Question 4: Am I trusting in God's grace alone to save me?

- A. Ephesians 2:8: Salvation by grace through faith
- B. Cannot be earned
- C. Received by faith alone

VI. Conclusion

- A. Summary: Turn, Serve, Wait
- B. Urgency: Time is short
- C. Challenge: Be ready with pure hearts, open hands, surrendered lives
- D. Final question: If Jesus came back today, would you be ready?

VII. Closing Prayer

- A. Thanksgiving for God's Word
- B. Request for help to turn, serve, and wait
- C. Longing for Jesus' return
- D. Prayer to remain steady, humble, and hopeful