

# UNTIL HE RETURNS

## 1 Thessalonians

Mike Taylor

[www.TaylorNotes.Info](http://www.TaylorNotes.Info)

### Part 2: A Faith That Can Be Seen

Imagine that someone secretly observed your life for the next 30 days. They could see how you spend your time, how you react when things go wrong, how do you treat difficult people, what you worry about and what you look forward to. The only restriction is that they are not allowed to hear you say that you are a Christian.



What evidence might convince that person that you really are a follower of Jesus Christ?

*“Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. <sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.” (1 Thess. 1:1-5 NIV)*

### CHECK THE BEST ANSWER

**A. Which three qualities were evident in the lives of the Thessalonian believers?**

- ☐ Knowledge, wisdom, and courage
- ☐ **Faith, love, and hope**
- ☐ Prayer, fasting, and giving
- ☐ Grace, peace, and conviction

**B. The one who initiates salvation is:**

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Paul
- ☐ **God**

*“You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia-- your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore, we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” (1 Thess 1:6-10 NIV)*

**C. These Thessalonian Christians experienced severe suffering with \_\_\_\_ given by the Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ Retaliation
- ☐ Resolve
- ☐ Joy

**D. The faith of these Thessalonian Christians:**

- ☐ Was unnoticed by people living in the same town
- ☐ **Became known everywhere**
- ☐ Grew slowly

## TEST YOURSELF

**Directions:** Match each statement in the left column with the correct answer from the right column. Write the correct letter in the blank.

| No.     | Statement                                            | Answer Choices              |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. ____ | Paul’s two ministry partners named in the greeting   | A. Turned to God from idols |
| 2. ____ | What genuine faith produced                          | B. Silas and Timothy        |
| 3. ____ | What Christian love prompted                         | C. Macedonia and Achaia     |
| 4. ____ | What hope in Christ inspired                         | D. Work                     |
| 5. ____ | The gospel came not simply with words, but with this | E. Jesus Christ             |

|          |                                                                  |                             |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6. ____  | Who enabled the Thessalonians to experience joy during suffering | F. Labor                    |
| 7. ____  | What the Thessalonians became to other believers                 | G. Power                    |
| 8. ____  | Two regions influenced by their testimony                        | H. Endurance                |
| 9. ____  | What “rang out” from the Thessalonian believers                  | I. The Holy Spirit          |
| 10. ____ | What they abandoned when they turned to God                      | J. Examples                 |
| 11. ____ | Whom they now served                                             | K. The Lord’s message       |
| 12. ____ | Whom they were waiting for from heaven                           | L. Idols                    |
| 13. ____ | What God did for Jesus after His death                           | M. The living and true God  |
| 14. ____ | What Jesus rescues believers from                                | N. Raised Him from the dead |
| 15. ____ | Three words that summarize their conversion                      | O. Turn, serve, and wait    |
|          |                                                                  | P. The coming wrath         |

### Leader Answer Key

1-B | 2-D | 3-F | 4-H | 5-G | 6-I | 7-J | 8-C | 9-K | 10-L | 11-M | 12-E | 13-N | 14-P | 15-O

## SUMMARY

### A. Their faith in Jesus Christ had **visible results**.

Faith motivates us to act, love moves us to serve others, and hope in Christ gives us strength to persevere. Paul is not saying that these things earn salvation. Rather, they are evidence that faith is genuine. Christianity is more than agreeing with certain beliefs; genuine faith begins changing the way we live.

### B. Their faith in Jesus Christ was **productive**.

Biblical faith does not remain merely an intellectual belief. When people genuinely trust Christ, that faith begins affecting how they live. Their good works do not *produce* salvation; rather, salvation produces good works (Eph. 2:10).

**C. Their good works were motivated by unconditional love (ἀγάπη).**

The word translated *labor* carries the idea of strenuous, demanding effort. Christian love is therefore more than affection or warm feelings. Genuine love is willing to sacrifice, serve, give, forgive, and sometimes inconvenience itself for another person.

**D. The gospel came to them not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and resulted in deep conviction.**

Paul is not saying that words are unimportant. The gospel contains a message that must be communicated. People need to hear about Christ. But the Thessalonians experienced something beyond merely hearing religious information. The Holy Spirit was at work through the message. The gospel came with power because God used it to penetrate hearts and change lives. This deep conviction caused them to turn from the worship of idols and resulted in their exclusive worship and loyalty to the one true God.

**E. Their hope in the return of Jesus Christ's return gave them endurance.**

Their hope was specifically "*in our Lord Jesus Christ*." Because they believed Christ would return, they could remain faithful when circumstances became difficult. Their hope was not wishful thinking but confident expectation based upon Christ. These believers were already facing opposition and suffering. Yet faith, love, and hope were producing visible spiritual fruit.

---

**APPLICATION: THREE WAYS TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION...**

- ❖ Send an encouraging note to Jenni ([jstetson@santacruz bible.org](mailto:jstetson@santacruz bible.org))
- ❖ Send an encouraging note to one of our SCBC staff members, perhaps asking how to pray for them (<https://santacruz bible.org/leadership>).
- ❖ Consider giving some food items to the SCBC Food Pantry (Claudia Riege, Coordinator)