



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Staying Ready for the Second Coming”

LESSON #1 = Encouragement for the Church

Text: II Thessalonians 1



Introduction: We often get caught up in our daily activities until we are blinded to everything else going on around us. We get tired of waiting. We get tired of working. We get tired of things not going the right way. What do we need when we are tired? Encouragement! We need to remind ourselves about what really matters. For five weeks we considered the book of first Thessalonians. We talked about how to get ready, but what happens next? What do I do when I finally get on board with God’s plan? We see the answer in the second letter to the Thessalonians. We need to STAY ready! How can we do that? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. We Need To Focus On Spirituality (vs.1-4)

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, ⁴so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.

II. We Need To Forget Our Suffering (vs.5-8)

⁵which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; ⁶since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. We Need To Follow The Saints (vs.9-10)

⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

IV. We Need To Fulfill Our Service (vs.11-12)

¹¹Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹²that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Please consider Virginia Brasier’s timely poem entitled “Time of the Mad Atom” from the Saturday Evening Post (cir.1949). You may have your spiritual bags packed. You may know where you will spend eternity. But if you are ready, will you stay ready by keeping busy? Will you stay faithful by fellowshiping with the saints? Will you stop thinking about yourself and encourage others? Be a blessing to others. Glorify God with everything you do. Be an encouragement to others. Let’s stay ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ!