



**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**“Getting Ready for the Second Coming”**  
**LESSON #1 = The Condition of the Church**  
by Ray Reynolds on January 3, 2016  
**Text: I Thessalonians 1**



Introduction: What do you pack when you take a trip? How many bags do you need? What are the contents of your suitcase? It is evident from **Acts 1:9-11** that Jesus ascended into heaven. Before that ascension He made a promise that He would come back again to receive the saints when the time is right (**John 14:1-6**). What does that promise mean to us? We know that Jesus is coming again but what must we do about it? We need to get our (spiritual) bags packed! We can go over that checklist every Lord’s Day (**I Corinthians 11:17-34**) and remind ourselves of our upcoming departure (v.26). One thing we need to focus on is our current spiritual condition (**I Thessalonians 1**). It’s hard to travel when we are sick or unhealthy. How’s your spiritual condition? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

**I. A Practical Church (vs.1-4)**

*<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup>knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.*

**II. A Graceful Church (v.5)**

*<sup>5</sup>For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

**III. A Spiritual Church (vs.6-7)**

*<sup>6</sup>And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.*

**IV. A Faithful Church (vs.8-10)**

*<sup>8</sup>For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

Conclusion: Have you started preparing for His second coming? Are you getting your bags packed? Why would you wait until the last minute? One way we can get prepared is to walk with those who are also getting ready. And we need to remember those who have made the journey. A good friend once said, “Yesterday is but a dream. Tomorrow is only a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. No one can predict the future, but everyone can adequately prepare for whatever the future might bring. For it is today that preparation is made for tomorrow.” Are you ready to meet Jesus? If not, make things right today!